Yumul: IPI's $2.4M crane litigation funds transferred to Superior Court. PAGE 2
NMHC's Civic Workshop ends today after 3 days. PAGE 3

Hafa Adai!

$1 Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXXIII, Issue No. 229

www.saipantribune.com | FRIDAY NOVEMBER 17, 2023 | www.facebook.com/saipantribune

13-year-old makes bomb threat at FMS

KIMBERLY. B. ESMORES

A bomb threat was reported at the Francisco M. Sablan Middle School late yesterday morning. Following a thorough sweep of the school, Department of Public Safety apprehended a 13-year-old boy accused of making the threat.

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Another bomb threat was reported, this time at the Francisco M. Sablan Middle School in San Antonio and, after a thorough sweep of the school, a 13-year-old was taken in for allegedly making the threat.

The Department of Public Safety responded to the threat at FMS late

See BOMB on Page 4

Tropical disturbance to pass this weekend

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A tropical disturbance is expected to pass near the Marianas this weekend.

According to a National Weather Service forecast, the tropical disturbance, called Invest 98W, was last seen centered near 6.8N 154.8E and that the latest model guidance shows 98W developing slowly over the next

See TROPICAL on Page 4

Manibusan

OAG declines to represent Saipan mayor

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

CNMI Attorney General Edward Manibusan has informed Saipan Mayor Ramon Blas Camacho, who is being sued by Construction & Material Supply over alleged unpaid invoices, that the OAG cannot represent him in the lawsuit.

Citing the CNMI Constitution, Man-

See OAG on Page 4

House committee subpoenas out today for Travilla, Sapp, Villanueva

» Yumul, Propst to visit Bank of Saipan to review documents related to BOOST Program

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The House of Representatives committee that is investigating the previous administration's controversial grant program will be issuing subpoenas today, Friday, to contractors Robert Travilla, Salina Sapp, and Shayne Villanueva to

See HOUSE on Page 4

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Rep. Ralph N. Yumul (Ind-Saipan), who chairs the House of Representatives Special Committee on Federal Assistance & Disaster-related Funding, presides over a meeting yesterday pertaining to their investigation into the previous administration's controversial grant program—Building Optimism, Opportunity, and Stability Together or BOOST.

INSIDE

LOCAL

Pacifica Insurance Underwriters, Inc. concluded its 10th Annual Pacifica Art Contest (PAC) on Monday, Oct. 16, with a total of 191 art entries.

PAGE 14

BUSINESS

Bourbon Street Bar & Café is the latest dining option on the island to introduce a Sunday lunch buffet.

PAGE 15

OFFBEAT

Four men were charged Monday over the theft of an 18-carat gold toilet from Blenheim Palace.

PAGE 17

SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

GOT A NEWS TIP? TEL: 235-6397 / 235-2440 FAX: 235-3740 EMAIL: editor@saipantribune.com

Local

Yumul says IPI's $2.4M crane litigation funds transferred to Superior Court

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC deposited $2.4 million in crane litigation funds into an escrow account with Security Title, which subsequently transferred the funds with the Superior Court, according to Public Works Secretary Ray N. Yumul yesterday.

Yumul informed Howyo Chi, who is the new manager/director of IPI, that DPW had been made aware via news media that Security Title deposited the $2.4 million with the Superior Court.

When asked by *Saipan Tribune* if the funds are still with the court, Yumul responded: "That's a good question" and said that if somebody from the government agreed to release the funds, that would be a serious misjudgment. He did not elaborate.

Chi inquired from Yumul last Nov. 7 to confirm the accuracy of information that a security deposit of $1 million related to IPI's resort project had been given to DPW. DPW denied receiving such a deposit.

Yumul said yesterday that they have reviewed their internal documents concerning IPI's tower cranes.

He said a dispute concerning IPI's tower cranes arose in August 2016 between IPI and businesses adjacent to the IPI construction site in Garapan. Although guidance was sought from DPW, the neighboring businesses later chose to file a civil complaint before the Superior Court.

Yumul said DPW learned that IPI deposited $2.4 million in crane litigation funds into an escrow account with Security Title to settle the safety concerns of these businesses to mitigate any damages that may be caused by the operation of the tower cranes.

On Oct. 24, 2018, Super Typhoon Yutu caused significant damage to IPI's tower crane No. 4 that necessitated its deconstruction, Yumul said. It was later taken down.

Yumul noted that DPW is coordinating with the Office of the Attorney General, the Department of Public Lands, and Department of Finance to ensure that IPI fulfills its duty to remove the remaining tower cranes, which it is still legally obligated to perform.

NMHC's Civic Workshop ends today after 3 days

By CHRYSTAL MARINO
chrystal_marino@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

CHRYSTAL MARINO

The crowd interacts with former representative Christina Sablan during her presentation at the Northern Marianas Humanities Council's Civic Workshop yesterday at the Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan in Garapan.

With the goal of teaching participants how the CNMI government operates, the Northern Marianas Humanities Council is concluding today its three-day Civics Workshop with the hope that attendees will become informed, effective, and empowered citizens.

As the first of its kind, the five-session workshop at the Azucena Hall of the Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan in Garapan started last Wednesday and included topics like Dean Palacios' lecture on how laws are created and how community members may be involved, and former CNMI governor Juan N. Babauta's explanation of the history and evolution of the CNMI government, to yesterday's discussion with KUAM's Thomas Manglona on how the media is important to democracy, and former representative Christina Sablan's strategies for scrutinizing political decision-making processes in a democracy, specifically the Open Government Act. Today's concluding session with Senate President Edith Deleon Guerrero will be focused on ethical rules in government.

In an interview with NMHC program coordinator Leeani Villagomez yesterday, she said they saw the largest crowd that morning and that the sessions so far had been engaging and informational.

"We want to see where this will lead," said Villagomez.

She had seen a lot of engagement with participants, and that, if the demand is there, they plan to develop more of these types of workshops in the future.

In Sablan's presentation, she shared the importance of the OGA and her personal stories involving the law, and the importance of citizens to know their rights when it comes to government's openness.

"It's been really helpful over the years to learn what exactly is the Open Government Act, so that we know what our rights are and what we are entitled to demand," said Gov. Arnold I. Palacios' special assistant on Climate Policy and Planning Program.

"The sessions have been really engaging and the whole overarching goal of this program is to empower more citizens to get involved, to challenge anything that they're not comfortable with, with any topics that concern them personally, so they can navigate better, whether speaking to their precinct representatives or getting access the resources available, websites and petitions," said NMHC program manager Naomi Tudela. "With these sessions, we learn a little bit where to begin and who to reach out to when they feel passionately about making a change in the CNMI."

She said the workshop feedback had been good. "I just spoke to one of the participants and they said that the sessions have been both interesting and interactive, and they have learned something new. At the end of each session, I ask: Did you learn at least three new things you didn't know before, and a majority of them would agree."

Originally, the NMHC team came up with 10 topics, but they were about to narrow it down to the Top 5 that "we felt would be most effective to really engage the CNMI citizens."

Tudela said that workshop participants included various groups of CNMI residents, from college students, to government agencies, and nonprofit organizations. "This is just a way to educate and bring awareness to the power you have as a voting citizen in the CNMI," she said.

Today's session with DeLeon Guerrero will be focused on the ethical rules in the government, and the lecture is set to begin at 9am.

ARMATECH

CCTV Installer and Repairer
Tel: (670) 234-8895 | Email: armatech.saipan@gmail.com
Mobile: (670) 287-5525 / (670) 783-8895

SAFETY Starts with "S" but begins with "You"
a friendly reminder from
LP GAS WUSHIN
Since1983 Committed to Safety Excellence
For your LPGas needs, please call 322-7415 or 322-8733
Open from 8:00am – 5:00pm Monday to Friday | 8:00am – 2:00pm Saturday

HANA HEALTH MASSAGE

SERVICES OFFERED
▪ Body Oil Massage ▪ Foot Massage (with medicine) ▪ Cupping Therapy (Suction cup massage for back pain) ▪ Sauna ($25 for 2 person)
▪ SPECIAL PROMO ▪ 1 Hour Body Massage $20
Recommended to heal: Back pain, neck pain, insomia, shoulder pain and head pain
Locations: ▪ NEW location → San Antonio, across K Market next to Ranch BBQ
▪ MSV Building, Chalan Kanoa across Moonlight
10:00AM TO 12:00AM • Call HANA: (670) 789-7778
WE ACCEPT CREDIT CARDS

Federal Employees and Annuitants
ENROLL with TakeCare!
OPEN SEASON
NOV. 13-DEC. 11, 2023
Keep more money in your pocket during these challenging financial times by enrolling in TakeCare's High Deductible Health Plan (HDHP) Option this open season.
Featuring Coverage* for as low as $17.90/pay period!
*HDHP Option, Self Only
Here's some great reasons to choose TakeCare's HDHP Option:
❖ Very affordable payroll deduction
▪ as low as $17.90/pay period (self only)
▪ annual savings of $1,260.48 over TakeCare's High Option, Self Only, even more if you're covering dependents.
❖ Health Savings Account (HSA) qualified plan
▪ $447.28 deposited tax-free into your HSA annually, Self Only, even more if you're covering dependents. Use the money to help pay your deductible, cost shares
❖ Wellness Incentives
▪ earn up to $600 in cash incentives during the year (self only)
❖ To learn more making the smart move to getting healthcare coverage and keeping money in your pocket, go to http://tiny.cc/TakeCareHSAFAQs or scan QR Code:
Customer Service (670) 235.0994
Our Island, Your Health Plan℠
AUDITED NCQA HEDIS® COMPLIANCE AUDIT MY2022 COMMERCIAL
Health Plan Accredited by AAAHC ACCREDITATION ASSOCIATION for AMBULATORY HEALTH CARE, INC.
TakeCare℠ A TanHoldings Company
takecareasia.com
Connect with us

Saipan musician Kui Lee goes Beyond the Reef

Saipan songwriter/entertainer Kui Lee will be traveling to Guam tomorrow, Nov.18, 2023, to perform at the Beyond the Reef Vol. 2 music festival at the Plaza de Espana in Agana.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Saipan songwriter/entertainer Kui Lee.

Lee takes the stage when the gates open at 3pm, and the music will continue into the night with some of the Marianas' favorite local artists and off-island headliners Anuhea and Eli Mac rocking the outdoor venue.

Beyond the Reef Vol. 2 is sure to be a day full of excitement, soul, and love, bringing the islands together to support local businesses and fostering the growth of local music and creative communities.

Other featured acts include the equally as unreal Cas Haley, Inna Vision, Gonzo & Zeb, JED, The John Dank Show, Jonah Hånom, Mama Char, Keo Ray, The Freqx, and Sleeping In.

Multi-talented guitarist/vocalist Dennis Nakamoto, who has performed solo and with multiple Guam and Hawai'i acts, will be jamming alongside Braddah Ku.

"I am extremely excited and honored to represent the Northern Marianas, at this legendary event," said Lee. "I really want to thank the Beyond the Reef team and sponsors who invited me to my first off-island gig as a solo artist, and I am also grateful to everyone who has supported my music and career, so far.

Lee will also be in the studio recording several new original songs. ***(PR)***

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

HOUSE

From page 1

compel them to bring documents that the committee wants to see.

Rep. Edwin K. Propst (D-Saipan), who is vice chair of the Special Committee on Federal Assistance & Disaster-related Funding, said in yesterday's meeting that the House's sergeant-at-arms will be responsible for delivering the subpoenas.

"But that should go out by tomorrow as we've discussed before. So that's the start for that information that we've been requesting," he said.

The committee is looking into the Building Optimism, Opportunity, and Stability Together grant program that used $17 million in American Rescue Plan Act funds that were allegedly handed out to the previous administration's cronies.

Propst said they are giving Travilla, Sap, and Villanueva 10 days to turn in the requested documents, then they will share it with the rest of the committee.

Committee chair Rep. Ralph N. Yumul (Ind-Saipan) also disclosed that the documents provided by the program's then-administrator, Bank of Saipan, have redacted information that they need to determine.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
1 Lower Navy Hill Road Navy Hill, Saipan, MP 96950

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)
RFP24-CHCC/HIT-EMR/EHR-002

"COMMONWEALTH HEALTH CENTER CERTIFIED ELECTRONIC HEALTH RECORD IMPLEMENTATION PROJECT"

Notice to Offerors

The Request for Proposal (RFP) for the "Community Health Center Certified Electronic Health Record Implementation Project" (RFP24-CHCC/HIT-EMR/EHR-002) is available on this website; **https: //www.chcc.health/RFP/requestforproposal.php.**

Issuer Information
This RFP is issued by the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation (CHCC) of the Northern Marianas Islands, 1178 Hinemlu St. Garapan, Saipan MP 96950.

Notice of Intent to Submit a Proposal
Interested offerors must email a "Notice of Intent to Submit a Proposal" to Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation (CHCC) Procurement Director, Cora Ada, at cora.ada@chcc.health as soon as practicable. This notice ensures that all interested parties receive relevant information on RFP updates or questions. While this step is crucial, it does not bind the offeror to make a submission. If an interested offeror fails to submit a notice of intent, they acknowledge and accept the risk of potentially missing crucial information.

All notices of intent to submit a proposal must include the RFP number (RFP24-CHCC/HIT EMR/EHR-002) and project title, "Community Health Center Certified Electronic Health Record Implementation Project", in the subject line. The content of the email should state the Offeror organization name, at least one primary email contact, and a brief statement of intent to submit a proposal.

Communication Protocol
Questions about this RFP will only be received in writing via email to CHCC Director of IT, Bel Busby at bel.busby@chcc.health and CHCC Procurement Director, Cora Ada at cora.ada@chcc.health with the RFP number and project title as the subject. Questions communicated verbally may not be answered. Offerors must avoid direct communication about this RFP with other CHCC staff members.

RFP Timeline
- Deadline for Offeror questions is **3:00 P.M. (Chamorro Standard Time), December 7th, 2023.**
- Final proposals must be submitted as docx or pdf attachments via email to Cora.Ada@chcc.health and must be received by **4:30 P.M. (Chamorro Standard Time), December 15th, 2023.**
- Late proposals won't be accepted.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

CNMI Labor closed today

The Department of Labor in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands wishes to inform the public that its office will be temporarily closed today, Nov. 17.

This closure is in support of a dedicated professional development training session for its staff.

The training aims to enhance the skills and expertise of our team members, ensuring that we continue to provide top-notch services to the community. Labor believes that investing in the professional development of its staff is crucial for maintaining high standards and staying abreast of the latest industry practices.

During this closure, its office will not be providing regular services, and we appreciate the public's understanding.

Normal business hours will resume on Nov. 20, 2023.

Labor apologizes for any inconvenience this closure may cause and appreciate your cooperation.

"Thank you for your understanding and support as we invest in the continuous growth and development of our team," Labor said in a statement.

For any urgent matters during the closure, you may send it to info@dol.gov.mp. ***(PR)***

COTA undergoing fixed route training, time assessments

The Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority is currently undergoing fixed route training and time assessments through Route 30, Beach Road from Nov. 13 to 23, 2023.

The purpose of this training is to ensure that all bus stop locations are safe and ADA compliant considering the ongoing construction works along Route 30, Beach Road.

In addition, COTA's grounds maintenance team will also be working to improve all bus stop locations along Route 30, Beach Road and Chalan Pale Arnold.

COTA would like to humbly ask the community for their patience and cooperation throughout this time. ***(PR)***

NMPASI closed on Nov. 24

The Northern Marianas Protection and Advocacy Systems, Inc. office will be closed next Friday, Nov. 24, for professional development.

Regular office hours will resume on Nov. 27 at 8am. ***(PR)***

BOMB

From page 1

yesterday morning. The call at around 11:53am was initially about a disturbance, but after police got to the scene, they learned that a student had threated to blow up the campus, according to DPS spokesperson Fred Sato.

"The report was that there was a student who claimed he found fireworks inside one of the school's restrooms and brought it to a teacher and informed him about where he found it. Then the student threatened the teacher and told him that if he [were] to report him, he would blow up the campus," he said.

First responders were immediately dispatched to the scene, Sato said, and even sought assistance from the Commonwealth Ports Authority's K9 Unit.

"The first step was to get the students out of the classrooms, getting them away from the school, [and] securing the buildings. We notified CPA Ports Police K9 unit that we needed assistance from their K9s that can detect explosives," he said.

The all-clear was given at around 1pm, Sato said, and students were allowed to return to their classes, and the student who made the bomb threat—the 13-year-old boy—was taken to DPS for further investigation.

"We completed a thorough search of every classroom and building, and we got an all-clear. We got an all-clear at around 1pm so students resumed classes. The 13-year-old male student has been taken in. He was taken to our investigations Unit, the parents [were] notified, and from there the investigation will continue," he said.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

OAG

From page 1

ibusan said the OAG does not legally represent mayors or any agencies of the municipalities.

CMS' complaint arises from unpaid invoices for quarry products provided to Camacho's office.

"CMS has provided this office with a copy of its complaint against you as the mayor of Saipan and the Municipality of Saipan. …Under the Commonwealth Constitution, the Office of the Attorney General does not provide legal representation to the mayors or any agencies of the municipalities," Manibusan said in a recent letter to Camacho.

Manibusan advised Camacho to hire a private lawyer instead.

That prompted Camacho to hire Michael N. Evangelista as his lawyer in responding to the lawsuit. Last Wednesday, Evangelista filed with the Superior Court a notice of appearance as counsel for Camacho.

In addition to his notice of appearance as Camacho's lawyer, Evangelista also gave notice that the defense intends to move for the dismissal of the case before Nov. 20, citing Commonwealth Rule of Civil Procedure 12(b)(1) and (6).

"Service of the summons and complaint is acknowledged…to have been effected not earlier than Oct. 19, 2023, with an answer or other response thereby due within 30 days. Accordingly, no response is due earlier than Monday, Nov. 20," he said.

In response to CMS citing *United States v. Borja*, Evangelista said that that particular court decision—which says that a municipality can sue or be sued—only applies to the Rota and Tinian municipalities.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

TROPICAL

From page 1

few days as it approaches the Marianas.

"Models are in fairly good agreement that the system will move through to the south of Guam, though this is subject to change as the circulation develops. There is a possibility this disturbance could become a tropical depression by the time it passes near Guam late Saturday," states the NWS weather statement.

Because of this, expect increased showers on and thunderstorms, especially in Guam and Rota, over the weekend, with wet conditions likely on Saturday into Sunday morning, the NWS said.

"As Invest 98W strengthens and approaches the Marianas, increasing winds, hazardous seas, numerous showers, and isolated thunderstorms are expected," said NWS.

In addition, the heavy showers from Invest 98W could result in urban/small stream flooding and possible flash flooding from Saturday into Sunday.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

Fuel up with **Synergy™ Supreme+** to get **10 entries***

Smiles Driver Rewards

Win **$500** Mobil gift card

40 Winners

Fill your holidays with Smiles

How to enter:

- Open to all registered Smiles members*
- With every $30 fuel purchase after any discount

Synergy™ Supreme+ = 10 entries
Synergy™ Extra/Diesel = 2 entries

Entry period:

November 3 to December 31, 2023

1st Drawing: November 30, 2023
(20 Winners of $500 Mobil gift card)

2nd Drawing: January 5, 2024
(20 Winners of $500 Mobil gift card)

Not a registered Mobil Smiles member yet? Simply pick up a Mobil Smiles card at any Mobil service station and scan QR code or go to guam.mobilsmiles.com to register.

Mobil™

*Mobil Smiles members must swipe their Smiles card or use their registered mobile number at the time of purchase. Offer is open to registered Guam Mobil Smiles customers only. No purchase necessary. Terms and conditions applicable. See store or website or call our toll-free hotline at 1-866-486-6696. Monday through Friday from 10am to 7pm for details. All trademarks used herein are trademarks of ExxonMobil Corporation or one of its subsidiaries.

GUANGDONG HARDWARE
Never satisfied until you are
ON SALE
REGULAR US LUMBER, RED PLYFORM, "24X24" CERAMIC TILES, PVC S40 CONDUIT, PVC S80 WATER FITTINGS,
AVAILABLE NOW
SALE ITEMS!

Make a Difference for Your House!

NEW ARRIVALS!
CARPOLY PAINT
It's the suitable paint for the island climate. Make your paint last for a long time!

1 FREE T-shirt with one time purchase of two buckets of
CARPOLY
Professional Paint Solution Provider
First Come First Served, While Stocks Last
LED LIGHTS
• Less money, 50% energy saving!
• More stable, bright, and fashionable!
• More longer and environmental protection!
Your Smart Choice!
G60 Rebar is Available Now!
CHEAPEST DEALER OF MAJOR CONSTRUCTION MATERIAL ON ISLAND!
P.O. BOX 501640, SAIPAN, MP 96950
TEL: (670) 288-2288/2289/6688
FAX: 288-4488
E-mail:guangdong_hardware@163.com
BUSINESS HOURS:
Monday to Saturday
8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Docomo Pacific sponsors Guam's 42nd Japan Autumn Festival

DOCOMO PACIFIC

From left, Hiromichi Oodaira, senior vice president of Finance, Docomo Pacific; Tadashi Gonda, chairman, Japan Club of Guam; Takemitsu Noguchi, vice chairman/general manager, Japan Club of Guam; Akira Fujibayashi, chief technology officer, Docomo Pacific; and Hayato Yamaura, director of Transport Network, Docomo Pacific.

TAMUNING, Guam—Docomo Pacific, the regional leader in innovation, telecommunications, and entertainment, sponsors the 42nd Annual Japan Autumn Festival tomorrow, Nov. 18, 2023, at the Joseph Flores Beach Park (formerly Ypao Beach Park).

The Japan Club of Guam is celebrating its 51st anniversary this year. The Aki Matsuri (Japan Autumn Festival), JCG's signature event since 1976, is one of the most popular events in Guam and has been attended by tens of thousands of Guam residents and visitors every year.

In celebration of the beauty of autumn, the event will showcase the features of both Chamorro and Japanese cultures such as cultural performances, demonstrations, culinary tasting, the arts, and exhibitions.

"The theme for this year is '繋ぐ' (pronounced 'tsunagu'), which translates to 'to connect' in English," said Tadashi Gonda, chairman of the Japan Club of Guam. "Our goal is to establish connections with future generations to ensure that strong relationships among our communities are maintained. Thank you, Docomo Pacific for continuing to bridge communities by supporting this year's festival.

Docomo Pacific said in a news release yesterday that it is proud to support the JCG's Aki Matsuri event once again "because we believe in the power of cultural connections and community enrichment.

"As a company deeply rooted in diversity, we recognize the significance of events like Aki Matsuri in fostering understanding, appreciation, and unity on our island. Our commitment to supporting this celebration stems from our belief that cultural exchange strengthens the bonds that make our community vibrant and resilient. Through our partnership, we aim to contribute to the shared experiences that define our island home and ensure a legacy of cultural richness for generations to come," the news release stated.

The Autumn Festival's proceeds will be contributed and donated to the Japanese School of Guam.

For more information on the festival, email JCG at offce@guamjpc.org or call (671) 646-8066. ***(PR)***

'Twas the Month Before
Christmas
Who said it's too early for Christmas? Definitely not us. With this special rate you can begin the Christmas festivities now.
SPECIAL LOAN* RATE
AS LOW AS
7.75% APR**
Apply today at bankofguam.com
Promo Period from Nov. 13 to Dec. 31, 2023***
*Subject to Bank of Guam lending criteria. Terms and conditions apply. **Annual Percentage Rate.
***Promotional rate offered for a limited time from November 13 through end of day December 31, 2023.
Member FDIC
Bank of Guam

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

Kuen-Hee Han Petitioner	:	FCD-DI CIVIL ACTION NO. 23-0385
VS	:	SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION
Je Seong Oh Respondent,	:	

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED RESPONDENT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is on file with the Court, within thirty (30) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the Petitioner whose address is PO box 502134, Saipan MP 96950 as soon as practical after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or Mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file and answer in accordance with this Summons, Judgement by Default may be taken against you for relief in the Complaint.

Dated this 31st day of October, 2023.

/s/_____
Clerk of Court

Wishes come true in MCS Theatre Club production of Disney's *Aladdin Jr.*

MCS

Senior Malina Rose B. Tenorio, left, directs Arturo Travilla, center and Jessiana Tenorio as they play the lead characters, Aladdin and Jasmine, respectively, in the next production by Mount Carmel School's Theatre Club, Disney's *Aladdin Jr.*

Wishes will come true when Mount Carmel School's Theatre Club proudly presents its next theatrical production, Disney's *Aladdin Jr.* on Dec. 1 and 2, at the school's historic stage.

Based on the 1992 Disney film and the 2014 Broadway adaptation, the show marks the club's 57th production since the club was founded in 1996. Join Aladdin, Jasmine, and the fast-talking, wisecracking Genie as they discover mystical caves, take magic carpet rides, and outwit the evil sorcerer, Jafar. Adapted especially for young performers, this musical includes favorite Alan Menken songs such as F*riend Like Me*, *A Whole New World*, and *Prince Ali*, as well as wonderful new songs added for the Broadway production.

The show is directed by senior and Theatre Club veteran Malina Rose B. Tenorio.

"Directing this show has definitely been a learning experience and a challenge for me, giving me a good outlet to channel all my creativity and ideas," she said. "I hope the audience will experience the wonder of Disney magic in the show, especially during this 100 year anniversary of the Walt Disney company."

Playing the lead role of Aladdin is Arturo Travilla. While he has helped backstage as a crew member in previous productions, this show will be his first time on stage. As a first-time actor landing a lead role, the show has been particularly challenging.

"I was really nervous at first, but with the help and support of our director and the rest of the cast and crew, I am really enjoying bringing this magical story to life," said Travilla.

Playing Jasmine, Aladdin's love interest and the princess of Agrabah, is Theatre Club veteran Jessiana Tenorio, whose previous shows include 2016's Disney's *The Lion King*, 2017's Disney's Mulan 2019's *Tasi*, and the award-winning film series, *We Drank Our Tears*.

Despite all her experience, this will be her first time in a lead role. That has not dimmed her enthusiasm. "It's new and exciting and I can't wait for the audience to get a story about a girl who is more than what the world perceives her to be," she said.

Junior Bernice Shane Sabino, an accomplished local performer who played Iris in this year's *True Colors* and Maria in last year's *The Sound of Music*, is back to play another lead role, this time as the Genie, a character made famous by the vocal talents of the late Robin Williams. Of all the lead roles she has played, this has been the most enjoyable for her. "The Genie has some of the funniest lines and so much physical humor, it's been so much fun to play the role, especially as a female instead of a male," she said.

Disney's *Aladdin Jr.* features music by Alan Menken, lyrics by Howard Ashman, Time Rice, and Chad Beguelin, and book by Chad Beguelin. It is based on the Disney film written by Ron Clements, John Musker, Ted Elliot, and Terry Rossio and directed and produced by Ron Clements and John Musker.

The Mount Carmel School Theatre Club production of Disney's *Aladdin Jr.* will be presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International. All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI (mtishows.com).

Disney's Aladdin Jr. will be presented on Friday and Saturday, Dec. 1 and 2, at the school's historic stage with doors opening at 6:30pm each night. Tickets are $15 for limited premium seats, $10 for preferred seats, and $5 for general admission, and may be purchased at the Mount Carmel School Business Office. For more information, call 234-6184 or visit www.facebook.com/mtcarmelcnmi.

Nov. 16 power service interruption rescheduled for today

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. would like to inform the general public that the power service interruption initially set for yesterday, Nov. 16, 2023, has been rescheduled for today, Nov. 17, 2023, as CUC continues its ongoing system maintenance.

The power service interruption today, Nov. 17, will be from 8:30am to 2:30pm and will affect portions of Chalan Tun Kiyoshi Road and Pontan Drive.

The momentary power service interruption also scheduled today will be from 8:30am to 9am and from 2pm to 2:30pm in Chalan Tun Kiyoshi Road and Pontan Drive.

No water well or wastewater facility will be affected and the purpose for the power service and momentary power service interruptions are to allow CUC linemen to replace four existing 55-foot concrete poles with 45-foot concrete poles.

CUC appreciates the public's cooperation and understanding as we continue to provide reliable service to our customers.

CUC continues to work diligently to minimize any inconvenience to its customers. For more information, contact the CUC Customer Hotline (236-4333) or monitor our Facebook page for the latest updates (https://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation/). ***(CUC)***

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY & CULTURAL AFFAIRS
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

DIVISION OF YOUTH SERVICES

FAMILY & YOUTH ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM

Kagman Community Center, P.O. Box 501000 C.K., Saipan, MP 96950

THE DCCA DIVISION OF YOUTH SERVICES IS RECRUITING APPLICANTS FOR THE FOLLOWING:

DYS SPORTS & CULTURAL AWARENESS AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM

SAIPAN OFFICE
Lead Program Worker- 1 POSITION (Part-Time)($15.00 an hour) Up to 32 hours weekly
Program Worker- 5 POSITIONS (Part-Time) ($9.00 an hour) Up to 32 hours weekly

PROGRAM END DATE: May 31, 2024

LEAD PROGRAM WORKER GENERAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Coordinate the overall DYS Sports & Cultural Awareness After School Program
- Develop and implement sports and cultural awareness programs at the Kagman Community Center
- Network with private and public community agencies to fulfill program implementation
- Coordinate all program ads and recruitment efforts of program participants
- Coordinate all program related inventory and supplies
- Complete and submit monthly program reports, or as requested
- Supervise program participants
- Perform other related duties as assigned

CHILDREN'S PROGRAM WORKER GENERAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Provide support with the coordination and implementation of the overall DYS Sports & Cultural Awareness After School Program
- Provide guidance and supervision to the After School Program participants
- Assist with the development and implementation of the sports and cultural awareness activities at the Kagman Community Center or other identified program site
- Assist with the program participant recruitment efforts
- Assist with the coordination of program related inventory and supplies
- Perform other related duties as assigned

DEADLINE: November 22, 2023, 4:30 p.m. (complete package to be dropped off to KCC)
For more information on the application and program requirements, please contact:

Maria Olopai	**670-237-1015**	mlolopai@dys.gov.mp
Jennifer Tanaka	**670-237-1017**	jtanaka@dys.gov.mp
Program Email	**670-237-1018**	fyep@dys.gov.mp
DYS Website	**670-237-1000**	www.dys.gov.mp

Pet clinic on Rota tomorrow, Nov. 18

Saipan Humane Society will be conducting clinic services for pets on Rota tomorrow, Nov. 18, from 10am to 4pm, at the Round House in Songsong Village.

This clinic is being done in collaboration with the office of Rep. Julie A. Ogo (Ind-Rota), Rota Mayor's Office, 19th Rota Municipal Council Office, and the Rota Department of Lands & Natural Resources, Fish & Wildlife Division.

Ogo said that part of the effort to reduce the stray animal population on the island is providing professional care to pets, which will hopefully shift to better home care of pets.

"I hope that this kind of collaboration will continue. It is unfortunate that these care providers are not immediately accessible to the outer island of Rota, but the periodic access, when available, may be just the thing that will encourage pet owners to take better care of their pets between clinic visits," Ogo said in a news release yesterday.

The clinic service will provide vaccination/medication, fleas and tick prevention, and examination. The incentive to bring pets to the clinic will be the distribution of pet foods.

For more information, contact the Rota Mayor's Office at (670) 532-9451/2, Rota Municipal Council Office at (670) 532-4046, office of Rep. Julie A. Ogo at (670) 664-8888, Rota DLNR, FWD at (670) 532-1345, or SHS at www.saipanhumanesociety.org. ***(PR)***

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONS LICENSING BOARD
P.O. Box 502078, Bldg., 1242 Pohnpei Court
Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel No: (670) 664-4809 Fax: (670) 664-4814
Email: info@cnmilicensing.gov.mp
Website: www.cnmilicensing.gov.mp

Pursuant to P.L. 8-41, Section 11, Governor Arnold I. Palacios and Lt. Governor David M. Apatang, through the Health Care Professions Licensing Board (HCPLB) hereby gives notice that it will hold its regular monthly board meeting on ***Wednesday, November 22, 2023, at 8 a.m.*** on Saipan. The meeting will be held at the Board of Professional Licensing Conference Room, BPL Building on Capitol Hill.

AGENDA

I. Meeting Call to Order
II. Determination of Quorum
III. Review and Adoption of Agenda
IV. Review and Adoption of Minutes (10/13/2023)
V. Public Comments
VI. Chairperson's Report
VII. Director's Report
- 2023 Citizens Centric Report
- CNMI IRT24 (Innovative Readiness Training) Initial Planning Meeting
- Online Payment Update

VIII. Investigator's Report
IX. Communications from the Governor's Office & Legislature
A. Governor's Office
B. Legislature
X. Old Business
- Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists Regulations for Final Adoption

XI. New Business
- HCPLB Regulating Fertility Clinics

XII. Pending Applications for Board's Review
A. New Application
- Jennifer Retsinas – Physician
- Ivory Joyce Palmitos – Baccalaureat Social Worker – Examination Request

B. Renewal Application
XIII. Miscellaneous Business
XIV. Executive Session: The Board may vote to meet in executive session to consult with Counsel on pending or anticipated legal matters.
XV. Announcements
A. Next Meeting Date
B. Adjournment of Meeting

Customers First TRIPLE J **Payless SuperFresh & Truckload Store**

Promo Duration: November 17-23, 2023
EARN DOUBLE POINTS ON ITEMS BELOW
LIMITED EDITION ECO BAG 700 POINTS

Thanks GiVing SALE

CAB CUCCINA STEAK NOW! $18.99/LB WAS: $21.79
YELLOW MEDIUM ONION NOW! $0.99/LB WAS: $1.49
WHOLE CHICKEN NOW! $2.99/LB WAS: $3.69
ST. LOUIS PORK RIBS NOW! $3.99/LB WAS: $4.99
TINIAN ROUND EGGPLANT NOW! $0.99/LB WAS: $1.59
GALBANI MOZZARELLA STRING CHEESE 24OZ NOW! $9.89 WAS: $12.39
BANQUET TURKEY POT PIE 7OZ NOW! $1.99 WAS: $2.29
MANGO NOW! $4.49/LB WAS: $5.39
TRIDENT ALASKA SALMON BURGERS 11OZ NOW! $7.69 WAS: $8.59
STOVE TOP TURKEY STUFFING 6OZ NOW! $3.49 WAS: $3.99
LIBBY PUMPKIN PIE MIX NOW! $5.99 WAS: $6.99
ASPARAGUS NOW! $5.49/LB WAS: $6.39
OCEAN SPRAY JELLIED CRANBERRY SAUCE 14OZ NOW! $2.69 WAS: $3.09
GALBANI MOZZARELLA CHEESE BALL 16OZ NOW! $6.39 WAS: $7.39
TOTINOS PARTY SUPREME PIZZA 10.9OZ NOW! $2.59 WAS: $2.99
PEPPERIDGE COUNTRY STYLE CUBED STUFFING 12OZ NOW! $4.29 WAS: $4.99
BROCOLLI CROWN NOW! $3.59/LB WAS: $4.19
DUNCAN HINES COMSTOCK CHERRY PIE FILLING 21OZ NOW! $6.89 WAS: $7.89
SUNNYVALLEY WHOLE HONEY SPIRAL HAM 16LB NOW! $4.89/LB WAS: $5.59
RED PEAR NOW! $2.99/LB WAS: $3.69
JENNIE-O WHOLE TURKEY NOW! $2.69/LB WAS: $3.09
YUKON POTATO NOW! $1.59/LB WAS: $1.89

Customers First! Rewards Plus! Payless SuperFresh & Truckload Stores
EXPLORE YOUR REWARDS!
EXCLUSIVE OFFERS FOR PAYLESS SUPERFRESH REWARDS MEMBERS!
KARO BLUE DARK CORN SYRUP 16OZ 400 POINTS
ESSENTIAL EVERYDAY CHILI WITH BEANS 15OZ 200 POINTS
ESSENTIAL EVERYDAY COOKING SPRAY BUTTER 6OZ 300 POINTS
ESSENTIAL EVERYDAY CHOCOLATE SYRUP 24OZ 300 POINTS

WE ACCEPT FOODSTAMPS! Tel: (670) 234-1444 @paylesssuperfreshtruckloadstore Open 7AM-9PM Daily

Premium PRE-OWNED CARS

NISSAN · Ford · KIA · HONDA

QUALITY · SELECTION · LOW PRICES

EVELYN CONCEPCION
Sales Consultant
Visit or call 234-5562

NOW $9,988 ~~$10,995~~

2017 KIA RIO
STOCK # H6034827, FWD 1.6L 4CYL, AUTO
Est. Mileage: 28397, Color: BLUE

NOW $12,995 ~~$14,995~~

2017 NISSAN QUEST SV
STOCK # H9170412, FWD, 3.5L V6, AUTO
Est. Mileage: 90135, Color: BLACK

NOW $15,005 ~~$16,005~~

2020 NISSAN VERSA S
STOCK # LL918754, FWD, 1.6L 4CYL, AUTO
Est. Mileage: 19,162, Color: SILVER

NOW $15,888 ~~$17,995~~

2019 KIA SOUL PLUS
STOCK # K7016573, FWD, 2.0L 4CYL, AUTO
Est. Mileage: 55,971, Color: BLACK

NOW $16,888 ~~$17,995~~

2018 NISSAN ROUGE
STOCK # JW468654, FWD, 2.5L 4CYL, AUTO
Est. Mileage: 37,252, Color: WHITE

NOW $16,888 ~~$18,995~~

2018 KIA SOUL EXCLAIM
STOCK # J7625565, FWD, 1.6L 4CYL, AUTO
Est. Mileage: 27,166, Color: BLACK

NOW $17,495 ~~$18,995~~

2017 HONDA ACCORD LX
STOCK # HA247930, FWD, 2.4L 4CYL, AUTO
Est. Mileage: 72,155, Color: SILVER

NOW $20,995 ~~$21,995~~

2019 HONDA HRV SPORT
STOCK # KM704761, AWD, 1.8L 4CYL, AUTO
Est. Mileage: 29,808, Color: GRAY

NOW $20,995 ~~$22,995~~

2019 KIA SPORTAGE LX
STOCK # K7616180, FWD, 2.4L 4CYL, AUTO
Est. Mileage: 30,453, Color: GRAY

NOW $22,995 ~~$24,995~~

2021 KIA SELTOS LX
STOCK # M7196591, AWD, 4 CYL-2.0 L
Est. Mileage: 13,980, Color: BLUE

NOW $23,505 ~~$24,995~~

2017 TOYOTA 4 RUNNER SR5
STOCK # H5438105, 4X4, 4.0L 6CYL, AUTO
Est. Mileage: 77,222, Color: SILVER

NOW $24,500 ~~$25,995~~

2021 HYUNDAI ELANTRA N-LINE
STOCK #MU179212, FWD, 1.6L 4CYL, MANUAL
Est. Mileage: 8,957 Color: RED

Joeten Motors
POWERED BY YOU

SHOWROOM HOURS: MON. – FRI. 8 AM – 5 PM · SAT. 8 AM - 12 NOON
TEL. (670) 234-5562

*See dealer for details, O.A.C, conditions apply.

Like us on Facebook

Many more used cars in stock to fit your budget & style

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXXIII, Issue No. 229

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

Mark Rabago EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Trump's dangerous 'vermin' speech would have been at home in Nazi Germany

It is a full-time job to call out every one of Donald Trump's lies and efforts to divide this nation, but his "vermin" address on Saturday deserves special attention.

The ex-president and leading Republican candidate for 2024 dishonored military veterans and further tainted his political party with a hate-filled Veterans' Day speech featuring words that would have been at home in Nazi Germany.

He promised to "root out" his opponents—supposedly on behalf of veterans who fought to protect liberty.

"In honor of our great veterans on Veterans' Day, we pledge to you that we will root out the communists, Marxists, fascists and the radical left thugs that live like vermin within the confines of our country, that lie and steal and cheat on elections, and will do anything possible—they'll do anything—whether legally or illegally, to destroy America, and to destroy the American dream," he said to a cheering crowd in Claremont, New Hampshire, after having posted essentially the same thing on Truth Social.

His words are repugnant for their historical connections to acts of racism, slaughter and populist dictatorship. The word "vermin" describes harmful rodents and insects. When turned on human beings, it implies the same response—extermination.

In response to criticism that Trump was calling for violence against his enemies, his campaign doubled down. Spokesman Steven Cheung told the Washington Post that "those who try to make that ridiculous assertion are clearly snowflakes grasping for anything because they are suffering from Trump Derangement Syndrome and their entire existence will be crushed when President Trump returns to the White House."

Trump has taken over the party of Abraham Lincoln, who in the closing weeks of the Civil War called for "malice toward none" and "charity for all," and who urged that Americans worked to bind up the nation's wounds. Trump now leads the party of Dwight D. Eisenhower, who led U.S. soldiers in an epic struggle to throw out Nazis, fascists and others who branded people as "vermin" for opposing them.

Years after World War II, after his two terms as president, and after the witch hunts in which Sen. Joseph McCarthy promised to root out communists in the Army and the federal government, Eisenhower spoke to his fellow Republicans at their 1964 convention.

"I believe with all my heart that the kind of party ours must be is one that rejects as unfit and unwholesome all who are purveyors of hatred and intolerance, who are prone to the use of violence, who malign the character of fellow Americans and who baselessly charge decent Americans with treasonable acts or intentions," he said.

How can Americans, Republicans particularly, recognize Trump as the successor to their great leaders of the past? There is increasingly more of a resemblance to other leaders, of other countries, who, like him, hammered hatred, grievance and self-obsession into the opposite of liberty, justice and democracy. Those dictators were ultimately defeated only at the cost of hundreds of thousands of American lives.

©2023 Los Angeles Times

It's not enough to say Biden won't call me "vermin," build massive concentration camps, imprison his opponents, seize control of all Federal agencies, purge anyone disloyal to him from government, and deploy the military to silence protests. I need a reason to vote FOR Biden.
DIST. by KING FEATURES SYNDICATE ©2023
MARKBELL.COM

American Jews a century ago faced upheaval, bigotry and division—all familiar today

By DANIEL SCHULMAN
Los Angeles Times

Daniel Schulman is the deputy Washington, D.C., bureau chief of Mother Jones. *His book,* The Money Kings: The Epic Story of the Jewish Immigrants Who Transformed Wall Street and Shaped Modern America, *from which this piece is adapted, published on Nov. 14.*

The last month has been profoundly disorienting for American Jews, as we have absorbed the horrific Hamas massacre and subsequent Israeli counterstrikes. This terrible war has surfaced deep divisions within the Jewish community, with some supporting a cease-fire or expressing solidarity with Palestinian civilians and others calling for unwavering backing for the Israeli government.

Yet many of us are experiencing the same jarring feeling that our traumatic past is not so distant, that dormant bigotries have been reawakened and that the Jewish people have again arrived at a moment of profound upheaval.

More than a century ago, American Jews believed they were on the cusp of a new era, that they had finally found sanctuary in a world that for millennia had provided no quarter. Then they too faced a crisis that was both far away and also at their doorstep.

Between 1880 and 1910, more than 1.5 million Jews poured into the United States, many fleeing antisemitism and oppression in Russia and its environs. They settled in large numbers in New York, gravitating toward Manhattan's Lower East Side, where Jewish immigrants crowded into dilapidated tenements that lacked electricity and plumbing and were so closely packed that natural light and ventilation were luxuries.

The demographic changes that came with large-scale immigration prompted an upsurge of nativism. Groups such as the Immigration Restriction League, founded by Harvard alums, emerged to beat back the flood of foreigners, contending they imported disease, crime and moral decay; stole American jobs; and burdened public resources.

Jacob Schiff, the legendary financier considered the leader of American Jewry during that period, watched this trend with alarm. He represented a wealthy German Jewish elite who had come to the U.S. decades earlier. Many of them hailed from modest origins, rising from peddling to the corridors of finance and commerce. None had ascended higher than Schiff, who now dominated their community's philanthropic life.

Beginning in the 1880s, as pogroms erupted in Russia and conditions for Jews worsened, Schiff and his allies had fended off attempts to curb immigration, including efforts to impose literacy requirements. They had established a sprawling network of charitable organizations to assist the new arrivals and speed their acculturation. But in the early 1900s, as Russian and Eastern European refugees flooded into the country, even this robust aid apparatus was straining under the demand. Schiff believed New York could no longer absorb the deluge and worried that the crime and squalor of the Lower East Side would both provide ammo to the restrictionists and fuel antisemitism, which was already on the rise.

Public opinion, meanwhile, was shifting sharply toward restriction. During his annual address to Congress in December 1905, President Theodore Roosevelt stated: "The laws now existing for the exclusion of undesirable immigrants should be strengthened."

The solution, Schiff believed, was not halting immigration—but diverting it, in line with Roosevelt's suggestion that the "right kind of immigration" should be directed "away from the congested tenement-house districts of the great cities."

By August 1906, Schiff was sketching out his plan in a letter to British author and activist Israel Zangwill, the son of Russian immigrants and an acolyte of Theodor Herzl, the father of Zionism. Zangwill had broken with the Zionist movement following its leader's 1904 death, forming an organization called the Jewish Territorial Organization. Where Zionists were pushing to create a Jewish homeland in Palestine—to the exclusion of other options—Zangwill and his organization were open to exploring alternative territories for the mass settlement of Jewish immigrants.

Proud of his American citizenship, Schiff found Jewish nationalism distasteful, if not dangerous. "Political Zionism places a lien upon citizenship" and "creates a separateness that is fatal," he had said. Many American Jews during that era shared his viewpoint.

But Schiff was willing to set aside his philosophical differences with Zangwill for help in routing immigration away from New York. Schiff initially favored New Orleans as the port for diverted immigrants, but he and his compatriots settled on Galveston, Texas, because it was farther west and not a major city where immigrants would be tempted to settle. It could serve not as a destination but as a transfer point to locales west of the Mississippi.

An immigration group Schiff helped found would work with Zangwill's organization to convey Jewish immigrants to Germany and then to Galveston. The new arrivals would receive some money and be sent on to one of 19 cities—including Des Moines, Denver and Kansas City—where local committees had formed to sponsor the immigrants and place them in jobs.

On July 1, 1907, the first group of Jewish refugees reached

See AMERICAN on Page 11

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Don't be fooled by Hamas' propaganda

By DIANE B. GENSLER
The Baltimore Sun

Diane B. Gensler is the author of Forgive Us Our Trespasses: A Memoir of a Jewish Teacher in a Catholic School.

Hamas seems to be winning the war—the war in the court of public opinion. I see too large a number of people in the news praising Hamas, and celebrating the brutal killing of Israelis and the taking and hiding of hostages. I see college kids on campuses who are anti-Israel without even truly understanding the history of the country or what it stands for. I hear of swastikas and other antisemitic insults spray painted on Jewish institutions and buildings.

This is what these terrorists want. As the president of the United States said from the White House on Oct. 20, "The terrorist group Hamas unleashed pure, unadulterated evil in the world."

Hamas has people fooled. They have fooled people into believing that it is their right to commit atrocious crimes against humanity because they have been oppressed. They have fooled people into believing it is the Israelis who are barbaric. They have fooled people into believing that Israel deserves to be annihilated. They have fooled people into believing that they have a worthy cause, when their only cause is to commit genocide and exterminate an entire race of people.

I see image after image plastered in the news of the people of Gaza digging out from bombed buildings to rescue people trapped beneath the rubble. I see images of adults in Gaza carrying the bodies of children. Our hearts bleed for them. It's more unnecessary, tragic loss of life. But the fanatical ideology of Hamas is furthered with the printing of these photographs. Why? Because this is what Hamas wants you to see, and they have designed it this way.

Hamas places and discharges their weapons from civilian areas near hospitals, schools and other community buildings. They use humans as shields, as NATO has documented. Hamas knows you'll view these photos and sympathize. Hamas knows you will be appalled by the images. Hamas makes sure the world sees these heart-wrenching images. Hamas knows you'll be sickened by the number of casualties they report (which cannot be verified).

And where exactly is Hamas? They are entrenched in the tunnels they have spent years building beneath the land. They are walking among the civilians of Gaza. They are forbidding the citizens of Gaza to flee in order to avoid the catastrophes. As terrorists do, they put their innocents in front of them and let them bear the brunt of war. They use them to influence the opinions of people half a world away. They manipulate by spreading this propaganda.

Are the members of Hamas good to their own people? According to the Council on Foreign Relations, "Hamas also represses the Gazan media, civilian activism on social media, the political opposition, and nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), leaving it without mechanisms for accountability." I also feel for the citizens of Gaza who are repressed by Hamas and used as victims.

All these strategies are part of the terrorist manifesto. It's been this way for as long as I can remember. Learn your history. This is nothing new. Perhaps the new part is that images spread faster around the world with the use of social media. People make snap judgments without understanding the context of the picture. People are too quick to judge.

I beg you, dear reader, to open up your mind and educate yourself. While nobody is saying that the Israelis are perfect or always do the right thing, the fierce antizionism and antisemitism appearing all over the world has got to stop. Stand up for what is right.

A cease-fire would reward Hamas and advance its brutal strategy

By JAY TCATH
Chicago Tribune

Jay Tcath is the executive vice president of the Jewish United Fund.

Imagine it's weeks after 9/11 in fall 2001. Grief, uncertainty and fear are palpable across our country. The nation's sense of security is shattered.

Now imagine that Chicago's streets have been filled from that life-changing day with protesters demanding that America accept an unconditional cease-fire with al-Qaida. Though that terrorist group has the desire and capability to inflict additional carnage, the protesters, joined by some City Council members and members of Congress, claim any American military response is unjustified.

It takes no imagination to realize that this reaction to 9/11 would have been rejected immediately. But such a response was never required because Americans would not have supported a cease-fire in that defining, still dangerous moment in our history.

Now imagine it is a month since Oct. 7, the deadliest day for Jews since the Holocaust. Imagine further that the perpetrator, the terrorist group Hamas, and pro-Palestinian supporters are demanding that Israel impose a cease-fire on its efforts to defend its people. That scenario also requires no imagination. It is precisely what Israel hears, on the streets of Chicago and in the City Council and the halls of Congress.

Of course, some cease-fires thankfully do offer a welcome pause in the suffering and a genuine step toward peace. Yet a cease-fire today in the war Hamas started against Israel is precisely what is not needed now. A cease-fire today would not end the suffering—either for Israelis or Gaza's civilians. That's because Hamas' intent is not to keep a peaceful cease-fire.

An immediate cease-fire does nothing for the 240 hostages being held by Hamas, among whom are a dozen Americans, plus women, children, people with disabilities and Holocaust survivors. A cease-fire maintains Hamas' despotic rule over Palestinians and its ability to wage terror against our ally Israel.

An unconditional cease-fire rewards Hamas and would advance its long-standing, transparent, five-staged strategy:

■ Sporadically launch ever-escalating attacks against Israel. Consider the attacks in 2006, 2008, 2012, 2014, 2021 and now the barbaric slaughter of Oct. 7. These attacks violated existing cease-fires, and the United Nations-recognized international border.

■ As soon as Israel responds, plead to the world, in the name of humanity, for a cease-fire.

■ Until a cease-fire is reached, exploit humanitarian pauses and aid convoys by diverting fuel intended for hospitals to launching rockets, smuggling military supplies into aid trucks and sneaking terrorists out in ambulances.

■ When the cease-fire is achieved, start training for the next attack, expand the arsenal, educate youths to hate, draw ever closer to Iran and exploit for political sympathy the further impoverishment of Palestinians.

■ The grand finale in this strategy is shamelessly repeated by Hamas official Ghazi Hamad: "We must teach Israel a lesson, and we will do this again and again … on Oct. 7, Oct. 10, October one-millionth, everything we do is justified." Asked if this means until Israel is annihilated, he has responded, matter-of-factly, "Yes, of course."

Those are Hamas' evil, avowed intentions. A concession-free cease-fire is a step forward for Hamas' terror strategy. It is not a step toward peace.

Hamas' rampage against civilians was itself a violation of an existing cease-fire. The group's planning included the certainty that pro-Palestinian supporters, as soon as Israel responded, would cry on cue, "Cease-fire now!"

Israel may ultimately agree to a cease-fire for the release of hostages or in a newfound faith that humanitarian aid may finally bypass Hamas and help innocent Gazans. Until then, all those urging cease-fire are serving Hamas' enduring goal: the killing of Jews, the annihilation of Israel and the continued oppression of Palestinians. While these people's goals may indeed be noble, they are not Hamas' goals.

It takes no imagination to realize why so many Americans don't love what a cease-fire with Hamas means. We recall, somberly, the cease-fire, and much, much more that didn't survive Oct. 7.

AMERICAN

From page 10

Galveston. One by one the 87 immigrants were examined by a doctor, grilled by inspectors and scrutinized by customs officers. By the end of the year, 900 immigrants had passed through the port. But soon the Panic of 1907 and the recession that followed made it difficult to find jobs for the newcomers. The flow of Russian immigrants, via Galveston, slowed to a trickle.

While Schiff's Galveston project flailed and the economy wallowed, a new but related crisis struck that threatened to tarnish perceptions of Jews.

On Sept. 1, 1908, New York Police Commissioner Theodore Bingham published a treatise titled "Foreign Criminals in New York" that included the shocking—and false—claim that Jews comprised 50% of the city's criminal element. Bingham's essay drew widespread condemnation, sparking fiery editorials from the Jewish dailies and protest meetings. Downtown leaders directed their fury not just at the commissioner but at the wealthy uptown Jews, Schiff in particular, who were slow to speak out against the article.

Soon Bingham retracted his comments, claiming that the statistics he cited were "unreliable." The scandal faded, but in its wake resentments between uptown and downtown Jewish communities lingered.

Outside of New York, a change in administrations doomed the struggling Galveston movement, with President Taft's administration less supportive than Roosevelt's. By 1909, many of the Jewish immigrants who arrived at Galveston were turned back. Schiff's project, hobbled by its stop-and-start nature and plagued by internal squabbling among its partners, shut down in 1914. In seven years, the initiative settled some 10,000 Jewish refugees, less than half of the 25,000 immigrants Schiff hoped to support.

Soon, the immigration restrictions the Galveston movement sought to avert all but sealed the nation to refugees for decades to come. As Schiff's project collapsed, and the U.S. was no longer a viable safe haven for Jewish immigrants, Zionism gained ground in Europe and the U.S. In the wake of the 1917 Balfour Declaration declaring British support for a Jewish homeland, the movement's dream, once far-fetched, began to come to fruition, though skirmishes between Zionists and non-Zionists would continue for decades.

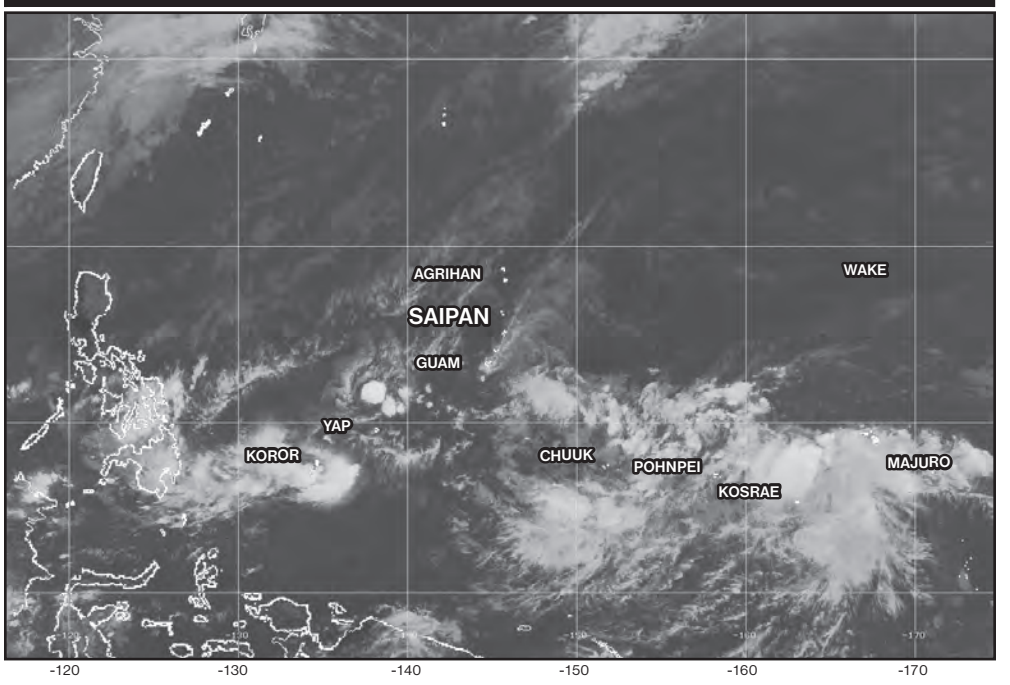
Now, the anxieties and divisions of a century ago feel oddly familiar. Again our communities see how, despite our differences, we are often painted with the same brush; how easily medieval prejudices can become a modern concern; and how what happens overseas can have ramifications in Indiana or New York or California.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Breezy. Mostly cloudy with locally heavy showers likely and a slight chance of thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with a chance of showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with a 40 percent chance of showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with a 40 percent chance of showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms.
87 / 79°	86 / 77°	86 / 77°	86 / 77°	86 / 77°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 8:28 AM, THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2023

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Doppler radar indicates quick moving, short live, minute showers (pin-prick) over the coastal water. Winds are elevated to 25 mph with gusts to 35 mph. Altimetry shows combined seas 8 to 10 feet, and Tanapag and Ipan buoys are showing 9 to 10 feet.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: https://www.weather.gov/gum/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°
Palau	Thunderstorms	84° / 78°
Yap	Thunderstorms	84° / 80°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	87° / 80°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	86° / 77°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	86° / 77°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	85° / 80°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:19 AM	5:44 PM
Saturday	6:19 AM	5:44 PM
Sunday	6:20 AM	5:43 PM
Monday	6:20 AM	5:43 PM
Tuesday	6:21 AM	5:43 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	9:49 AM	9:10 PM	-
Saturday	10:48 AM	10:13 PM	-
Sunday	11:41 AM	11:15 PM	-
Monday	12:30 PM	-	-
Tuesday	-	12:15 AM	1:14 PM

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Cloudy	64° / 55°
Beijing	Sunny	52° / 28°
Hong Kong	Sunny	84° / 73°
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	84° / 73°
London	Partly Cloudy	55° / 46°
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	70° / 59°
Manila	Thunderstorms	84° / 77°
Melbourne	Cloudy	77° / 52°
Miami	Mostly Sunny	82° / 75°
New York	Mostly Sunny	56° / 39°
Osaka	Sunny	66° / 57°
Paris	Partly Cloudy	52° / 43°
Busan	Sunny	70° / 45°
Rome	Partly Cloudy	63° / 45°
Salem	Rain	66° / 46°
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	61° / 51°
Seoul	Rain	61° / 37°
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	61° / 57°
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	56° / 39°

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
3:55 AM	Low Tide	-0.57
11:27 AM	High Tide	1.74
4:38 PM	Low Tide	1.31
8:55 PM	High Tide	1.67

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Friday, Saipan Tribune offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of $180. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF OCTOBER 30, 2023

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA076	9:50AM	10:30AM	Daily

SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)

UA824	7:05AM	9:45AM	1, 3, 5

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

PR 111	5:55AM	7:55AM	Daily
UA193	7:50PM	11:50PM	2, 5 via Palau
UA183	7:55PM	9:50PM	Daily

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

7C3403/2305	4:40AM	10:20PM	Daily
UA076/183	9:50AM	9:50PM	Daily via Guam
UA076/193	9:50AM	11:50PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau

SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)

TW308	2:15AM	6:10AM	Daily
7C3403	4:40AM	8:35AM	Daily
7C3405	4:35PM	8:25PM	Daily

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	8:00AM	8:45AM	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

UA825	9:25PM	2:00AM+1	2, 4, 7

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

UA189	00:40AM	6:30AM	3, 6
PR110	10:05PM	3:55AM+1	Daily
UA192	10:40PM	6:30AM+1	2, 5 via Palau
UA184	10:55PM	4:45AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA189/174	00:40AM	8:45AM+1	3, 6 via Guam
UA192/174	10:40PM	8:45AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam
UA184/174	10:55PM	8:45AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6,7 via Guam
7C2306/3406	11:15PM	3:30PM+1	Daily

INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3406	10:10AM	3:30PM	Daily
TW307	7:45PM	1:15AM+1	Daily
7C3404	10:15PM	3:35AM+1	Daily

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF OCTOBER 30, 2023

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	SAIPAN	ROTA	08:30	09:00	Oct 21-31, 2023
1302	SAIPAN	ROTA	10:30	11:00	Daily
1303	SAIPAN	ROTA	15:30	16:00	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3101	ROTA	SAIPAN	9:30	10:00	Oct 21-31, 2023
3102	ROTA	SAIPAN	11:30	12:00	Saturday & Sunday
3103	ROTA	SAIPAN	13:30	14:00	Monday To Friday
3104	ROTA	SAIPAN	16:30	17:00	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	ROTA	GUAM	11:30	12:00	Monday To Friday

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
4301	GUAM	ROTA	12:30	13:00	Monday To Friday

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1201	SAIPAN	TINIAN	7:30	7:45	Daily
1202	SAIPAN	TINIAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	SAIPAN	TINIAN	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	SAIPAN	TINIAN	10:00	10:15	Daily
1206	SAIPAN	TINIAN	15:00	15:15	Daily
1207	SAIPAN	TINIAN	16:00	16:15	Daily
1208	SAIPAN	TINIAN	17:00	17:15	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
2101	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
2102	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	TINIAN	SAIPAN	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	TINIAN	SAIPAN	10:30	10:45	Daily
2106	TINIAN	SAIPAN	15:30	15:45	Daily
2107	TINIAN	SAIPAN	16:30	16:45	Daily
2108	TINIAN	SAIPAN	17:30	17:45	Daily

Guam Board of Accountancy donates $400K to UOG Endowment

GUAM
DATE 11/08/2023
PAY TO THE ORDER OF UOG ENDOWMENT FOUNDATION $ 400,000.00
FOUR HUNDRED THOUSAND & 00/100 ONLY
IN SUPPORT OF THE SENATOR HERMINIA DIERKING
PROFESSOR & LECTURER PROGRAM

UOG ENDOWMENT FOUNDATION
From left, Katrina Perez, executive director, UOG Endowment Foundation; former governor Joseph F. Ada; Jesse Leon Guerrero, chairman, UOGEF; Ramona Jones, director, UOGEF; David John, director, UOGEF; John Onedera, chairman, Guam Board of Accountancy; Sean Phillips, member, GBOA; Dave Sanford, executive director, GBOA; UOG president Anita Borja Enriquez; Flo Martinez, director, UOGEF; and retired Army National Guard Brig. Gen. Roderick Leon Guerrero, director, UOGEF.

The Guam Board of Accountancy recently delivered its latest contribution of $400,000 to the UOG Endowment Foundation in support of the School of Business and Public Administration at the University of Guam.

From 2014 through 2023, GBOA has generously contributed a total of $4.3 million for the school's Guam Accountancy Endowment Fund to benefit the Senator Herminia Dierking and John Phillips Visiting Accounting Professor and Lecturer Program.

UOG president Anita Borja Enriquez gave special recognition to the GBOA during the pre-investiture cocktail reception for Enriquez at the Crowne Plaza Resort Guam on Nov. 8, 2023.

"The Guam Board of Accountancy is a wonderful supporter of the efforts to grow the university's capacity to provide a solid education for future accountants," said Enriquez. "On behalf of our students, we are sincerely grateful for the steadfast support of GBOA over the decade."

Last year, UOG launched the Master of Accountancy Program, an online graduate program for working professionals aiming to be Certified Public Accountants. ***(UOG)***

ANTONIO SN. BORJA, Chairman · JAMES M. MENDIOLA, Vice-Chairman · HENRY H. SAN NICOLAS, Member · DONALD M. HOFSCHNEIDER, Member · CHARLENE M. LIZAMA, Executive Director

TINIAN CASINO GAMING CONTROL COMMISSION

Municipality of Tinian and Aguiguan
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9910(a), the Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission (TCGCC) hereby gives notice that it will hold its Regular Meeting on Tuesday, November 21, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. at the TCGCC Conference Room.

AGENDA

I. **PRELIMINARY**
   a. Call to Order
   b. Roll Call
   c. Adoption of Agenda
   d. Adoption of Minutes
      1. October 19, 2023 – Regular Meeting

II. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**[1]

III. **REPORTS**
   a. Chair's Report
   b. Executive Director's Report

IV. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**
   a. Status Update of Bridge Investment Group/Tinian Diamond Casino

V. **NEW BUSINESS**
   a. Internal Control System of the Tinian Diamond Casino
   b. ED Recommendation No. 2023-04

VI. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**[2]

VII. **OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS**

VIII. **MISCELLANEOUS AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

IX. **ADJOURNMENT**

[1] Public comments are limited to 30 minutes and each remark is limited to 3 minutes. Everyone is welcome to submit written comments.
[2] Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Commission may vote to meet in executive session at any time.

DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

P. O. Box 501304, Saipan MP 96950 • Gualo Rai Center, Saipan
TEL. NO. 664-8300 FAX NO. 664-8315 • www.dcrm.gov.mp

NOTICE OF APPLICATION

As of November 17, 2023

THE FOLLOWING IS A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF COASTAL PERMIT APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BY THE DCRM OFFICE:

NO.	APPLICANT	DATE APPLICATION RECEIVED	APPLICATION PROJECT DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	TYPE	STATUS
1.	Mobil Oil Marianas Inc.	10/30/2023 RLRm-2023-007	MBM & Chain Inspection	Sasanhaya Bay, Rota	Lagoon & Reef	Approved* 11/09/2023
2.	Portopia Hotel Corporation dba Hyatt Regency Saipan	11/07/2023 SSm-2024-005	Demolition & Reconstruction of Electrical & Mechanical Building	Garapan, Saipan	Shoreline	Approved* 11/13/2023
3.	Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC)	11/14/2023 SWMSPICH-2023-091-A1	Replacement of Wooden Power Poles to Concrete Power Poles	Islandwide, Saipan	Wetlands & Mangrove, Shoreline, Ports & Industrial, Coastal Hazard	Certified Complete 11/15/2023 Approved 11/15/2023

NMIAC §15-10-210 of the CRM Rules and Regulations requires all permit applications to be published in a newspaper for general circulation within the CNMI within 15 days of receipt of application. The list reflects recently received permit applications and those with a recent change in status. New applications are marked with an asterisk (*).

The Public is invited to submit written comments regarding any of the above projects for which a permit decision has not been issued. All permit comments should identify the project by application number. Your comments should be mailed or hand-delivered to the DCRM Office. All persons who desire a public hearing regarding any project may do so by submitting a written request for a public hearing to the DCRM Office within fourteen (14) days for minor permits (APCs) and proposed amended major sitings. Public Hearings are required for all new major siting projects. All public hearing notices are published in a local newspaper of general circulation. Residents of Rota and Tinian may submit comments and hearing requests to their local DCRM Coordinator. Persons wishing to retain the right to appeal a DCRM Permit decision must file a notice of appeal with the DCRM office within thirty (30) days of the issuance of the DCRM permit decision as provided in Part 200 § 15-10-235 of the DCRM Regulations.

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

MAIN OFFICE: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, 2ND FLOOR ARRIVAL BLDG.
PO BOX 501055•SAIPAN•MP•96950
PHONE: (1-670) 237-6500/1 • FAX: (1-670) 234-5962
WEBSITE: WWW.CNMIPORTS.COM

INVITATION FOR BID

PROJECT NO. CPA-IFB-004-24

SUBMISSION DATE: NOVEMBER 24, 2023: 2:00 P.M.

"SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF ONE UNIT BRAND NEW SUV FOR CPA SAIPAN SEAPORT OFFICE"

THE BID PACKAGE IS AVAILABLE FOR PICK UP AT THE COMMONWONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY (CPA) ACCOUNTING OFFICE, 2ND FLOOR, DEPARTURE BUILDING, SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT BEGINNING OCTOBER 23, 2023. AN ADMINISTRATIVE FEE OF $100.00 SHALL BE PAID TO CPA BEFORE A BIDDER MAY OBTAIN THE BID PACKAGE. PAYMENTS SHALL BE IN CASH, CASHIER'S CHECK, OR CREDIT CARD.

BIDDERS ARE TO SUBMIT ONE (1) ORIGINAL AND TWO (2) COPIES IN A SEALED ENVELOPE AND MARKED "SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF ONE (1) UNIT BRAND NEW SUV FOR CPA SAIPAN SEAPORT OFFICE **(IFB-004-24)**" TO THE OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, 2ND FLOOR, ARRIVAL BUILDING, SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT ON OR BEFORE 2:00 P.M., NOVEMBER 24, 2023. **A 10% BID GUARANTY IN THE FORM OF A BID BOND OR CASHIER'S CHECK SHALL BE SUBMITTED WITH THE BID DOCUMENTS.** BIDDERS SHALL TAKE INTO CONSIDERATIONS ALL CHARGES ASSOCIATED WITH THIS PROCUREMENT BEFORE FINALIZING ITS BID PRICE.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CPA PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION §40-50-1020 AND 1025 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CPA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF CPA.

WENDI PRATER
ACTING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

DATE: _____

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

MAIN OFFICE: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, 2ND FLOOR ARRIVAL BLDG.
PO BOX 501055 SAIPAN, MP 96950
PHONE: (1-670) 237-6500/1 | FAX: (1-670) 234-5962
E-MAIL ADDRESS: CPA.ADMIN@PTICOM.COM | WEBSITE: WWW.CNMIPORTS.COM

NOTICE OF REGULAR MEETING

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) hereby gives notice that a Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors will be held on Tuesday, November 21, 2023, at 10:30 a.m. in the Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting (ARFF) classroom located at the Airport Fire Station at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport. The following items are on the agenda for the above referenced meeting:

AGENDA

I. **PRELIMINARY MATTERS**
   1. Call to Order
   2. Roll Call
   3. Adoption of Agenda
   4. Adoption of Minutes

II. **INTRODUCTION OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR- Leo Tudela**

III. **PUBLIC COMMENT(S)**

IV. **CORRESPONDENCES**

V. **COMMITTEE REPORTS**
   1. Financial Affairs Committee (with Grants and Internal Auditor Reports)
   2. Airport Facilities Committee
   3. Seaport Facilities Committee
   4. Personnel Affairs Committee

VI. **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

VII. **OLD BUSINESS:**
   1. Contract Management Desk Audit/Performance Audit
   2. Rota Ports Manager Employment Contract
   3. Saipan Airport Manager Employment Contract

VIII. **NEW BUSINESS:**
   1. Amendment of Board Bylaws – Video Conference
   2. Supplemental Budget Request: Saipan Loading Bridges 1, 4 & 5 Replacement Construction Contract
   3. Supplemental Budget Request: Tinian Seaport Perimeter Fence
   4. Authority Concession Grant – Award

IX. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**
   a. Report by Attorney Robert T. Torres
   b. Report by Attorney Joseph M. Hallahan

X. **MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS**

XI. **ADJOURNMENT**

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony on the above agenda items. A time limit may be imposed. Video Conferencing is also available via Zoom. Zoom link: Meeting ID: 898 0318 0837 Passcode: 573227

JOSE C. AYUYU
Chairman, Board of Directors

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cnmiports.com

AMENDED JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT # 01-2024

Opening date: October 30, 2023 **Closing date: November 17, 2023**

Location:	**SAIPAN**	**SALARY**
Position(s):	(1) AOA Controller-I	PL 5/1 to 5/12 ($8.83/hr to $15.10/hr)
	(1) ARFF Mechanic II	PL 6/1 to 6/12 ($9.27/hr to $15.85/hr)
	(1) General Maintenance-I	PL 3/1 to 3/12 ($8.01/hr to $13.70/hr)
	(1) Master Electrician	PL 19/1 to 19/12 ($17.48/hr to $29.90/hr)
Location:	**PORT OF SAIPAN**	
Position(s):	(1) Secretary II	PL 9/1 to 9/12 ($10.73/hr to $18.35/hr)
Location:	**TINIAN**	**SALARY**
Position(s):	(1) Custodial	PL 1/1 to 1/12 ($7.26/hr to $12.42/hr)
	(1) General Maintenance	PL 2/1 to 2/12 ($7.63/hr to $13.04/hr)
	(4) Ports Police/ARFF Trainee	PL 5/1 ($8.83/hr)
Location:	**ROTA**	**SALARY**
Position(s):	(2) Custodial/Maintenance-I	PL 2/1 to 2/12 ($7.63/hr to $13.04/hr)

Employment Application must be accompanied with a copy of all required diploma/certificates and/or official sealed transcripts, original copy of recent police record not more than six (6) months old, original copy of U.S. Department of Defense Form DD214 for retired members or veterans of our Armed Forces, and other documents as required for the position. Public Law 11-70 requires that all male applicants age 18 to 25 years old must submit documentation evidencing his registration with the Federal Selective Service System. All applications and required documents must be submitted to the ***CPA Administration Office, 2nd Floor Arrival Building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport or CPA Administration Office, Tinian International Airport, or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport.*** Failure to provide any of the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. Certain vacancies may require written and/or physical test. Selected applicants will be subjected to pre-employment drug screening, 10-year Criminal History Record Check and 49 CFR Part 1542.209(d) Requirements. CPA reserves the right to waive or implement other qualifications to meet its needs. The deadline for submission of applications and required documents to the CPA Administration Office (Saipan) or at the Tinian International Airport or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport is no later than 5:00 P.M. on Friday, **November 17, 2023.**

Detailed information on qualifications and position descriptions for the above positions may be picked up along with the application form from Monday-Friday, 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., except on holidays, at the CPA Administration Office (2nd Floor) of the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Arrival Terminal or CPA Admin, Office at the Tinian International Airport or at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport. For additional information, please contact the CPA Human Resources Office by email at lorna.robert@cnmiports.com and hrspecialist@cnmiports.com or by phone at (670)237-6500.

CPA is an Equal Opportunity Employer and CPA hires those who are legally entitled to employment in the CNMI.

WENDI PRATER
Acting Executive Director

Palacios, Huang, Jiang top Pacifica's 10th Annual Art Contest

Pacifica Insurance Underwriters, Inc. concluded its 10th Annual Pacifica Art Contest last Oct. 16 with a total of 191 art entries.

For the first time in the history of PAC, there were repeat winners for not one but two categories.

Grace Christian Academy's En Mei Victoria Huang, 2022 PAC traditional category one winner, secured another win this year for the same category.

Tricia Palacios from Mount Carmel School, also secured the top spot this year for the same category.

Freshman student from Saipan Southern High School Yu Rong Jiang bagged the traditional category two.

Pacifica Insurance brought back its original art contest theme "Rest assured, it's Christmas" after temporarily shifting its focus toward lifting the spirits of the people of the Marianas post-super typhoon Yutu and during the COVID-19 global pandemic between the contest years 2018 and 2022.

"There was an explosion of colors and vibrancy found in every piece entered this year to help us usher in the holiday season and Christmas. We are excited for the awesome turnout and could not be more grateful to the many talents who took part in making our 10th Annual PAC a great success," said Pacifica Insurance president and CEO Shirley Sablan "The purpose of PAC is to nurture and support local talent and the arts and with over 2,000 entries since holding our first contest back in 2014, we feel we have accomplished just that, and we have countless individuals to thank for its success. To celebrate 10 years of art, we recently introduced an online art exhibition which we named The PAC Gallery to ensure that enjoyment will be at the palm of your hands and in every mobile device and personal computer."

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Pacifica Art Contest digital category winner and Mount Carmel School 11th grade student Tricia Palacios received a Certificate of Excellence Award and a cash prize for winning first place in her category. Pacifica Insurance Underwriters, Inc. marketing coordinator Dionne Camacho presented the award during a surprise classroom visit. Also in the photo is MCS counselor Tobed Smith, far left, and school principal Filmah Buenaflor, far right. Palacios was also last year's PAC winner for the same category.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Pacifica Art Contest traditional one category winner and Grace Christian Academy 6th grade student En Mei Victoria Huang received a Certificate of Excellence Award and a cash prize for winning first place in her category. Pacifica Insurance Underwriters, Inc. automobile department supervisor Keomi Palacios-Rabauliman presented the award during a surprise classroom visit. Also in the photo is GCA teacher Kaley Dilse. Huang was also last year's PAC winner for the same category.

The PAC Gallery which can be found on www.pacificains.com/artcontest will house and archive top placing artworks starting from year 2014. It will also feature participating artists, contest judges, and educators in the field of art, and will be the permanent home for PAC where details about upcoming contests can be found. Although the company continues to develop and add content to the Gallery with the help of Turnkey Solutions, it is now live and accessible.

The three judges for this year's art contest were CNMI Public School System math teacher and the State Teacher of the Year Donovan Tudela, Northern Marianas Humanities Council program manager Naomi Tudela, and PSS Mental Health Program social media specialist Julia Espino.

"This year's submissions were absolutely phenomenal! The spirit of Christmas is definitely here and I am so proud of the artists and the fantastic artwork they have created," said Donovan Tudela.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Art by GCA student En Mei Victoria Huang, traditional category one winner.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Pacifica Art Contest traditional two category winner and Saipan Southern High School's 9th grade student Yu Rong Jiang received a Certificate of Excellence Award and a cash prize for winning first place in her category. Pacifica Insurance Underwriters, Inc. marketing coordinator Dionne Camacho presented the award during a surprise visit.

"The Pacifica Art Contest is a celebration of imagination that allows our local young artists to shine, where their talents are recognized, validated, and spread cheer throughout our community," said Naomi Tudela.

"As one of the judges for the 10th Annual Pacifica Art Contest this year, I must say it was an honor to be part of the process. The incredible work of our young artists and their interpretations of the theme, 'Rest Assured, It's Christmas," left a lasting impact. Each artwork had its own story, providing us with a glimpse into what Christmas means to our young, talented artists. I want to extend my heartfelt congratulations to Pacifica for marking a decade of hosting this contest and inspiring our youth to go above and beyond their artistic abilities when they enter this contest," said Espino.

CNMI-based schools with participating artists included Sinapalo Elementary School, Dr. Rita Hocog Inos Jr/Sr High School, Saipan Community School, Mount Carmel School, Grace Christian Academy, Marianas High School, Saipan Southern High School, Dandan Middle School, Saipan International School, Saipan Seventh Day Adventist School, Green Meadows School, William S. Reyes Elementary School, Garapan Elementary School, San Vicente Elementary School, Oleai Elementary School, Hopwood Middle School, Francisco M. Sablan Middle School, and Agape Christian School.

This year's PAC had three separate categories: traditional category 1 for ages 6-11, traditional category 2 for ages 12-17, and the digital category which was open to all ages.

There were 98 entries for traditional category 1, 75 entries for traditional category 2, and 18 entries for the digital category in this year's art contest.

Mediums allowed for the traditional categories were pen, paint, pencil, charcoal, oil pastel, crayons, and marker.

The digital category was open for photographs, 30-second-long videos, and two-dimensional art in jpg, png and pdf formats.

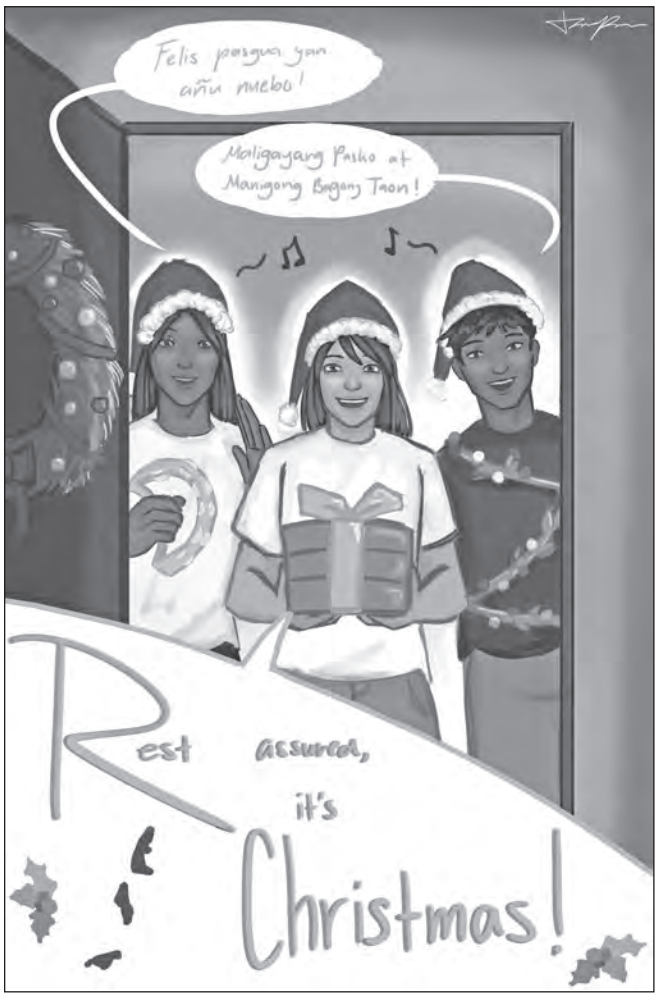
Winners received cash and other prizes.

Artworks will be on display at the Pacifica Insurance second floor office located at the Joeten Building in Susupe until Jan. 9, 2024.

Some of the pieces will be randomly featured on the company's Instagram and Facebook social media pages and top placing pieces can be viewed on The PAC Gallery.

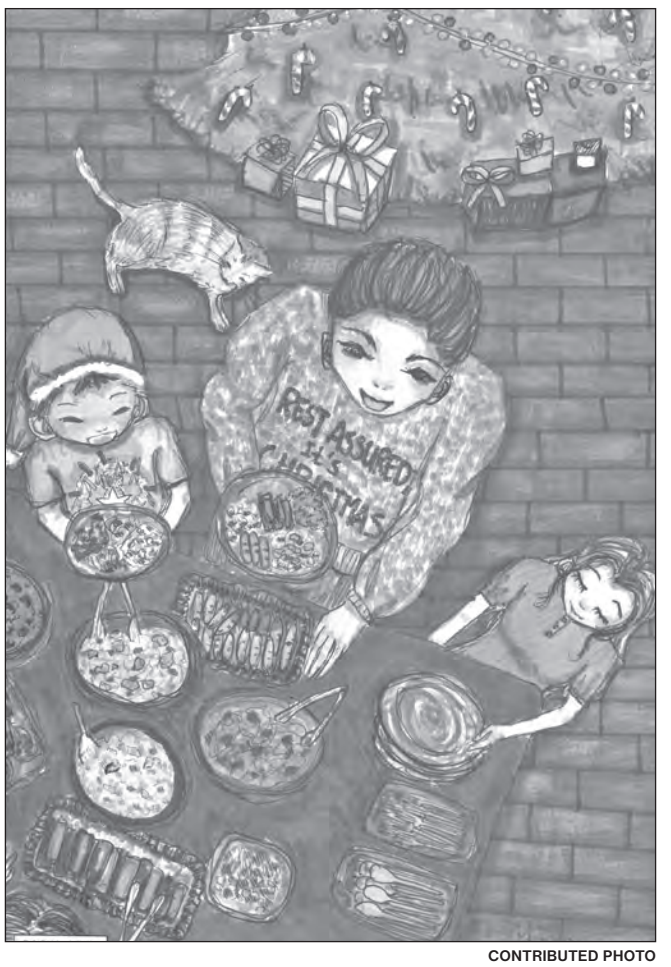
Winning artworks will be used on various marketing materials, which will include print and social media still photos and video promotional ads.

The staff and management of Pacifica Insurance wishes everyone an enjoyable and safe holiday season. ***(PR)***



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Art by MCS student Tricia Palacios, digital category winner.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Art by SSHS student Yu Rong Jiang, traditional category two winner.

Business

Bourbon Street rolls out Sunday lunch buffet

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
EDITOR

Bourbon Street Bar & Café is the latest dining option on the island to introduce a Sunday lunch buffet.

Owner Eden Ordas said the urging of loyal customers prompted them to introduce the Sunday lunch buffet.

"After careful consideration and feedback from our customers, we identified a desire for a more expansive and varied dining option on Sundays. The buffet format allows us to offer a diverse range of culinary delights, catering to different tastes and preferences. It provides an opportunity for our guests to savor an array of dishes in a relaxed and convivial atmosphere," she said.

Bourbon Street's Sunday lunch buffet offers two sets of menus which will be served alternately on Sundays. One is similar to their regular menu offering, while the other one introduces an Italian-inspired or -themed menu.

Ordas said this allows them to showcase the restaurant's commitment to staying at the forefront of culinary trends and providing guests with a fresh and exciting dining experience.

Just some of the items in that expansive spread include best-sellers like Kowloon chicken, siomai, pad thai, spaghetti (pomodoro), cheese and pepperoni pizza, and fried chicken.

"The introduction of a Sunday buffet at our establishment is rooted in our commitment to enhance the overall dining experience for our valued patrons at a very reasonable price."

The Garapan restaurant, Ordas said, also looks at the Sunday lunch buffet as aligning with their goal of creating memorable moments for patrons by providing them with a unique and enjoyable dining experience.

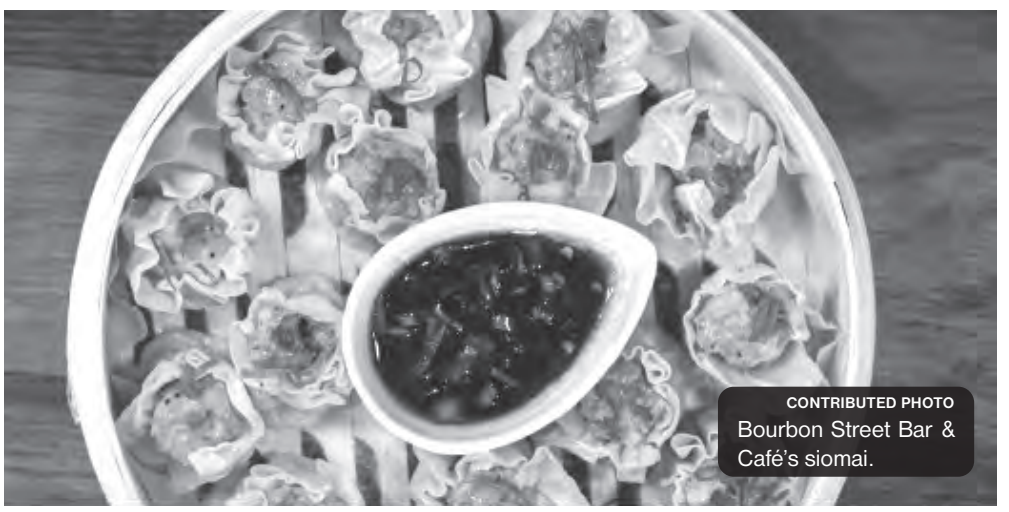
"We believe this culinary offering adds a distinctive touch to our services and fosters a sense of community among our guests. We also take pride in offering a distinctive dining experience that distinguishes us from alternative options in several meaningful ways."

Bourbon Street's Sunday buffet is crafted with a commitment to culinary excellence as their cooks curate a diverse selection of high-quality fresh ingredients to ensure a delightful and flavorsome experience.

"We strive to elevate traditional dishes and introduce innovative creations that showcase our dedication to gastronomic excellence.

"Beyond the culinary offerings, we are dedicated to providing a warm and inviting atmosphere. Our attentive staff is committed to delivering excellent service, ensuring that your time with us is not only a feast for the palate but also a pleasant and memorable occasion," said Ordas.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Bourbon Street Bar & Café's Kowloon chicken.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Bourbon Street Bar & Café's siomai.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Bourbon Street Bar & Café is located at the corner of Beach Road and Cpl. Derence Jack St. in Garapan.

Bourbon Street Bar and Café is located at the corner of Beach Road and Cpl. Derence Jack St. Its Sunday lunch buffet is available from 11am to 2pm. For more information, call (670) 233-0415 or (670) 588-8846.

Biden is turning his attention to Asia-Pacific economies

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Fresh off his meeting with the leader of China, President Joe Biden on Thursday will address CEOs grappling with the risks to their businesses from world crises and spend time trying to persuade other Indo-Pacific leaders that the U.S. is committed to nurturing economic ties throughout the region.

"We've got a few busy days ahead of us," Biden said during a welcome reception, ticking off a list of concerns and challenges for the leaders to examine. "Our strongest tools to meet those challenges remain the same ... connection, cooperation, collective action and common purpose."

Biden is courting world leaders at the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit and through his administration's Indo-Pacific Economic Framework, a group that includes most of the 21 APEC member economies, and a few others, like India, that aren't members of the larger forum.

The president will also pose for the traditional "family photo" with APEC leaders, host a working lunch and a fancy leaders dinner.

The U.S. hasn't hosted the annual leaders' summit—started in 1993 by President Bill Clinton—since 2011. The group met virtually in 2020 and 2021 because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Leaders did gather in Bangkok last year, but Biden skipped the summit because his granddaughter was getting married and he sent Vice President Kamala Harris in his place.

The annual leaders' conference brings together heads of nations and other top economic and diplomatic leaders. Biden told those who gathered Wednesday evening at a welcome party— including Russia's representative, Deputy Prime Minister Alexei Overchuk—that today's challenges were unlike those faced by other APEC leaders.

"How we're going to harness the potential of artificial intelligence to lift up the world, while minimizing the risks and safety concerns of the present?" he asked. "Will we act, with the urgency necessary to dramatically curb carbon emissions and avert a climate catastrophe that threatens us all? Can supply chains be built that are more resilient and secure in the face of threats like natural disasters and pandemics?"

On Thursday, Biden will speak to CEOs who are exploring new technologies and the concept of resilience so that companies can steer through a variety of challenges.

After decades of trade built on the premise of keeping prices low, accessing new markets and maximizing profits, many companies are now finding a vulnerable global economy. The Ukraine and Israel-Hamas conflicts aren't helping matters.

The coronavirus pandemic exposed frailties in their supply chains. Climate change has intensified natural disasters that can close factories. The Israel-Hamas war and Ukraine's defense against a Russia invasion have generated new financial risks, and new technologies such as artificial intelligence could change how companies operate and displace workers.

Averting gov't shutdown, Congress OKs temporary funding through the holidays

WASHINGTON (AP)—Ending the threat of a government shutdown until after the holidays, Congress gave final approval Wednesday night to a temporary government funding package that pushes a confrontation over the federal budget into the new year.

The Senate met into the night to pass the bill with an 87-11 tally and send it to President Joe Biden for his signature one day after it passed the House on an overwhelming bipartisan vote. It provides a funding patch into next year, when the House and Senate will be forced to confront—and somehow overcome— their considerable differences over what funding levels should be.

In the meantime, the bill removes the threat of a government shutdown days before funding would have expired.

"This year, there will be no government shutdown," Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer said at a news conference after the bill's passage.

The spending package keeps government funding at current levels for roughly two more months while a long-term package is negotiated. It splits the deadlines for passing full-year appropriations bills into two dates: Jan. 19 for some federal agencies and Feb. 2 for others, creating two deadlines where there will be a risk of a partial government shutdown.

"Everybody is really kind of ready to vote and fight another day," Republican Whip John Thune, the No. 2 Republican, said earlier Wednesday.

The two-step approach was not favored by many in the Senate, though all but one Democrat and 10 Republicans supported it because it ensured the government would not shut down for now. Sen. Patty Murray, the Washington Democrat who chairs the Senate Appropriations Committee, voted for the bill but said it would eventually "double the shutdown risk."

The spending bill also does not include the White House's nearly $106 billion request for wartime aid for Israel and Ukraine, as well as humanitarian funding for Palestinians and other supplemental requests. Lawmakers are likely to turn their attention more fully to that request after the Thanksgiving holiday in hopes of negotiating a deal.

Nation

Biden, Xi agree to restore some military-to-military communications

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Joe Biden and Chinese President Xi Jinping agreed Wednesday to restore some military-to-military communications between their armed forces as the two leaders met for hours on the sidelines of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit in San Francisco.

Both sides pledged cooperation that would bring the U.S and China closer to resuming regular talks under what's known as the Military Maritime Consultative Agreement, which until 2020 had been used to improve safety in the air and on the sea.

"That's been cut off. That's been worrisome," Biden said at a news conference after his meeting with Xi. "So we're back to direct, open, clear, direct communication."

A senior U.S. official said the military communication agreements mean that U.S. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin can meet with his Chinese counterpart once that person is named. The official spoke to reporters on condition of anonymity to discuss a private meeting.

This also opens the door for agreements at less-senior levels, including allowing the Hawaii-based commander of U.S. Pacific forces to engage with counterpart theater commanders, the official said. Xi said he and Biden agreed to resume high-level military dialogues on the basis of equity and respect, according to a statement released by China Central Television, the state broadcaster.

AP

President Joe Biden and China's President President Xi Jinping walk in the gardens at the Filoli Estate in Woodside, Calif., Wednesday, Nov, 15, 2023, on the sidelines of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperative conference.

The agreement comes after U.S. military leaders had expressed repeated concerns about the lack of communications with China, particularly as the number of unsafe or unprofessional incidents between the two nations' ships and aircraft has spiked.

According to the Pentagon's most recent report on China's military power, Beijing has "denied, canceled or ignored" military-to-military communications and meetings with the Pentagon for much of last year and this year. The report warns that the lack of such talks "raises the risk of an operational incident or miscalculation spiraling into crisis or conflict."

The U.S. views military relations with China as critical to avoiding any missteps and maintaining a peaceful Indo-Pacific region. Here's a look at the often fraught relationship between the U.S. and Chinese militaries.

More than 15 years ago, the Defense Department was making progress in a growing effort to improve relations with Beijing as both sides stepped up military activities in the Indo-Pacific.

The U.S. was concerned about Beijing's dramatic and rapid military growth. And China was suspicious of America's expanding presence in the region. In an effort to improve transparency and communication, defense leaders from the two countries were meeting regularly. And in a 2008 speech in Singapore, then-Defense Secretary Robert Gates noted that relations with China had improved, and that a long-sought direct telephone link between the U.S. and China had finally been established. He said he had used it to speak with the defense minister.

He and other defense chiefs, Joint Chiefs chairmen and regional high-level U.S. commanders routinely traveled to China over the next decade, and Chinese defense leaders came to the Pentagon. "We don't want miscalculations and misunderstandings and misinterpretations. And the only way you do that is you talk to each other," noted then-Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel in 2013.

The following year Hagel made a historic visit to Yuchi Naval Base and became the first foreign visitor to go aboard China's first aircraft carrier as it was docked at the base.

The Defense Department's 2014 report on China's military power referred to "sustained positive momentum" in U.S. ties with Beijing, and noted there was a growing number of agreements, conferences, calls and military exercises. It said the two militaries established new channels for dialogue and signed two agreements to improve transparency and reduce the risks of unintended miscalculations by ships and aircraft in the Pacific.

Las Vegas HS student beaten to death by 10 classmates

LAS VEGAS (AP)—A 17-year-old high school student in Las Vegas was beaten to death in an alleyway around the corner from campus by 10 of his classmates between the ages of 13 and 17, a prearranged fight that authorities said broke out over a pair of headphones and a vape pen.

But police homicide Lt. Jason Johansson said that detectives think the victim wasn't originally supposed to be involved in the brawl, which the students agreed would take place after classes were done for the day at Rancho High School in eastern Las Vegas.

Jonathan Lewis Jr. walked to the alleyway with his friend, whose headphones and vape pen had been stolen, Johansson said.

The deadly beating on Nov. 1 was captured on cellphone video and widely shared on social media. Johansson described the footage as "very void of humanity."

In the video, he said, the victim is seen taking off his shirt to prepare for the fight, and then the 10 students "immediately swarm him, pull him to the ground and begin kicking, punching and stomping on him."

Eight of the students were arrested Tuesday by Las Vegas police and the FBI on suspicion of murder. They were not immediately identified because they are under 18.

Las Vegas police said they haven't yet been able to identify the two remaining students, who will also face murder charges. The police department released images of the teenagers, asking for help from the public to identify them.

On Wednesday afternoon, as classes ended for the day and students were leaving campus, a small memorial with flowers and eight candles sat against a fence in the alleyway where Lewis was killed.

Rancho High School principal Darlin Delgado said in a letter this week to parents that support and resources were available for students and staff members as the beating "has and will continue to impact our school community."

Scott Coffee, a deputy public defender with 28 years of experience in Las Vegas, said it is unusual to have so many co-defendants of such young ages charged with murder in a single case. Coffee said he had not seen court documents and does not represent any of the defendants.

"When kids are involved in this kind of activity, they take the risk by being involved," Coffee said. "But the flip side is this: Does it look like anybody intended to kill anyone?"

A family court judge on Wednesday ordered four of the students who are 16 or older to be transferred to the adult court system, the Review-Journal reported. Hearings will be held at later dates to determine if the students under 16 will be charged as adults.

Police and prosecutors will have to measure the level of culpability for each of the 10 defendants as the case moves through the court system, Coffee noted.

"Was there somebody in charge of this group? Was somebody younger just going along with the older folks?" he said, adding that although the students face similar charges at the time of their arrests, "it doesn't mean the resolutions are necessarily going to be similar."

After the brawl, a person in the area found the teenager badly beaten and unconscious in the alleyway and carried him back to campus, where school staff called 911, police said.

Lewis was hospitalized with severe head trauma and other injuries until his death a week later. The coroner's office in Las Vegas ruled the beating a homicide.

The victim's father, Jonathan Lewis Sr., didn't respond Wednesday to requests for an interview. But on a fundraising page he created to help with funeral and medical expenses, he wrote that his son was attacked while standing up for his friend.

Manchin says Trump would destroy US democracy if he wins 2nd term as president

CHARLESTON, W.Va. (AP)—West Virginia Sen. Joe Manchin, days removed from announcing he won't seek re-election, said Wednesday that if the nation's voters give former President Donald Trump another term in the White House, "he will destroy democracy in America."

Manchin, whose home state voters overwhelmingly backed Trump in the last two presidential elections, made the comment on a press call with West Virginia-based reporters amid speculation that Manchin himself might be weighing a third-party run for president.

The moderate West Virginia Democrat said Wednesday that he would never want to be a "spoiler" who contributed to getting any other candidate elected. But he said he would do what he had to in order to save the country.

"If they said, ' You're the only person to do it,' I'll do whatever I can to save this nation," he said.

Manchin had harsh words for how the two-party system is currently functioning.

"These parties have taken over to where they weaponized us against each other," he said. "And that's wrong."

But Manchin reserved his harshest comments for Trump, who won every one of West Virginia's 55 counties in both 2016 and 2020, making it one of the former president's most loyal states. Manchin said it would be "dangerous" to give Trump another term.

"You can't have this visceral hatred spewing out of every time you give a speech, denigrating Americans," he said. "And the only good American is the one that likes you and supports you; the only fair election is the one you win; the only laws pertain to everybody but you."

Manchin also critiqued Democratic President Joe Biden on Wednesday, saying he has been pushed too far to the left during his term in office.

After Manchin announced his decision last week not to seek another term, Trump took to social media to take credit for nudging him out of the race by endorsing the current West Virginia governor's bid for Manchin's Senate seat next year.

"Because I Endorsed Big Jim Justice of West Virginia for the U.S. Senate, and he has taken a commanding lead, Democrat Joe Manchin has decided not to seek re-election. Looking good for Big Jim!" the former president said on his Truth Social internet site.

World

Israel searches for traces of Hamas in raid of Gaza hospital

KHAN YOUNIS, Gaza Strip (AP)—Israeli troops on Wednesday stormed into Gaza's largest hospital, searching for traces of Hamas inside and beneath the facility, where newborns and hundreds of other patients have suffered for days without electricity and other basic necessities. The forces also pressed on with their wider ground offensive.

Details from the daylong raid remained sketchy, but officials from Israel and Gaza presented different accounts of what was happening at Shifa Hospital in Gaza City: The Israeli army released video showing soldiers carrying boxes labeled as "baby food" and "medical supplies," while health officials talked of terrified staff and patients as troops moved through the buildings.

After encircling Shifa for days, Israel faced pressure to prove its claim that Hamas had turned the hospital into a command center and used patients, staff and civilians sheltering there to provide cover for its militants. The allegation is part of Israel's broader accusation that Hamas uses Palestinians as human shields. Israel released video late Wednesday of weapons it said it found in one building, but so far its search showed no signs of tunnels or a sophisticated command center.

Hamas and Gaza health officials deny militants operate in Shifa — a hospital that employs some 1,500 people and has more than 500 beds, according to the Palestinian news agency. Palestinians and rights groups say Israel has recklessly endangered civilians as it seeks to eradicate Hamas.

As Israel tightens its hold on northern Gaza, leaders have talked of expanding the ground operation into the south to root out Hamas. Most of Gaza's 2.3 million people have already crowded into the territory's south, where a worsening fuel shortage threatens to paralyze the delivery of humanitarian services and shut down mobile phone and internet service.

The war between Israel and Hamas erupted after the militant group killed some 1,200 people and seized around 240 captives in an Oct. 7 attack that shattered Israelis' sense of security.

Israeli airstrikes have since killed more than 11,200 people, two-thirds of them women and minors, according to the Palestinian Health Ministry in Ramallah, which coordinates with the ministry branch in Hamas-ruled Gaza. Another 2,700 have been reported missing, with most believed to be buried under the rubble. The ministry's count does not differentiate between civilian and militant deaths.

Israeli forces launched their raid into the large Shifa compound around 2 a.m. and remained on the grounds after nightfall Wednesday, with tanks stationed outside and snipers on nearby buildings, Munir al-Boursh, a senior official with Gaza's Health Ministry inside the hospital, told The Associated Press. It was not possible to independently assess the situation inside.

Al-Boursh said that for hours, the troops ransacked the basement and other buildings, including those housing the emergency and surgery departments, and searched the grounds for tunnels. Troops questioned and face-screened patients, staff and people sheltering in the facility, he said, adding that he did not know if any were detained.

"Patients, women and children are terrified," he told the AP by phone.

Neither the Palestinians nor the military reported any clashes inside the hospital. The military said its troops killed four militants outside the hospital at the start of the operation. Throughout days of fighting in the surrounding streets in previous days, there were no reports of militants firing from inside Shifa.

The Israeli military said it was carrying out a "precise and targeted operation against Hamas in a specified area in the hospital," and that its soldiers were accompanied by medical teams bringing in incubators and other supplies.

It added that forces were also searching for hostages. The plight of the captives, who include men, women and children, has galvanized Israeli support for the war. Families and supporters of the hostages are holding a protest march from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.

The video released by the military from inside Shifa showed three duffel bags it said it found hidden around an MRI lab, each containing an assault rifle, grenades and Hamas uniforms, as well as a closet that contained a number of assault rifles without ammunition clips. A laptop was also discovered and taken for study. The AP could not independently verify the Israeli claims that the weapons were found inside the hospital.

IN APEC FORUM

Taiwan's participation offers rare chance to break China's bonds

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP)—Taiwan will take part in the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum in San Francisco this week, a rare opportunity for the self-governing island democracy of 23 million people and its high-tech economy to break the diplomatic embargo on it imposed by authoritarian China.

Taiwan's chief delegate will be a civilian rather than a government figure or head of state, under an unwritten rule that satisfies China's contention that members of the organization participate as economic entities rather than state players.

For the seventh time, Taiwan will be represented by Morris Chang, the 92-year-old founder of the world-leading Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Company. Chang is known as the godfather of the industry that has put Taiwan in the top ranks of high-tech manufacturing and personal electronic devices.

Taiwan has participated in APEC since 1991 under the name Chinese Taipei. It began taking part just two years after the group's inception and the same year that China and the semi-autonomous Chinese city of Hong Kong joined.

Taiwan has relied on retired ministers—and, in Chang's case, industry leaders—who are well connected with the government but do not carry the burden of formal office, which could spark a protest from China. But that doesn't mean Taiwan's government won't be represented. Minister of Finance Chuang Tsui-yun will attend a meeting presided over by U.S. Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen, who recently visited Beijing, and two other ministers will attend meetings on Tuesday and Wednesday.

A Japanese colony until the end of World War II, Taiwan split from mainland China amid a civil war in 1949. China continues to claim the island as its territory, to be annexed by force if necessary, a threat it plays out on a near-daily basis by sending ships and warplanes into areas around the island. These acts of political intimidation have the potential to wear down the operational resiliency of the island's military equipment and personnel. Taiwan has just a fraction of the air, sea, and missile power of China's People's Liberation Army, not to mention its ground forces, and relies heavily on young men doing their mandatory national service to fill its ranks.

Ukraine says it now has foothold on eastern bank of Dnieper River

KYIV, Ukraine (AP)—A top Ukrainian official said its troops have established a beachhead on the eastern bank of the Dnieper River near Kherson, an important advance in overcoming one of Russia's most significant strategic barriers in the war.

Andriy Yermak, head of the president's office, provided no details but confirmed the development that had been widely discussed in military forums over the past month. "Against all odds, Ukraine's defense forces have gained a foothold on the left bank," he told the Hudson Institute, a Washington think tank, in a speech Monday.

Ever since Russian forces left the city of Kherson and the territory around it in November 2022, the only area they controlled on the west bank of the Dnieper, the river became a natural dividing line along the southern battlefront, preventing Ukrainian troops from advancing further towards Russian-annexed Crimea.

The barrier also allowed Russia to concentrate more troops in the heavily mined and fortified Zaporizhzhia region and eastern Ukraine. Crossing the river could allow Ukraine to outflank Russia without having to break through the Zaporizhzhia region and take the most direct land route to Crimea.

Yermak said Ukraine's military had moved "step by step" toward Crimea and covered nearly three-quarters of the distance there.

Since the summer, Ukrainian forces have crossed the river in small groups to create a foothold near the Kherson bridge and more recently sought to expand their presence in nearby villages on the east bank, including Krynky.

The Institute for the Study of War in Washington said Yermak's comments confirm its own assessments that Ukraine was conducting larger-than-usual ground operations on the river's eastern bank and appeared to be holding its positions and supplying troops in the Russian-controlled part of the Kherson region.

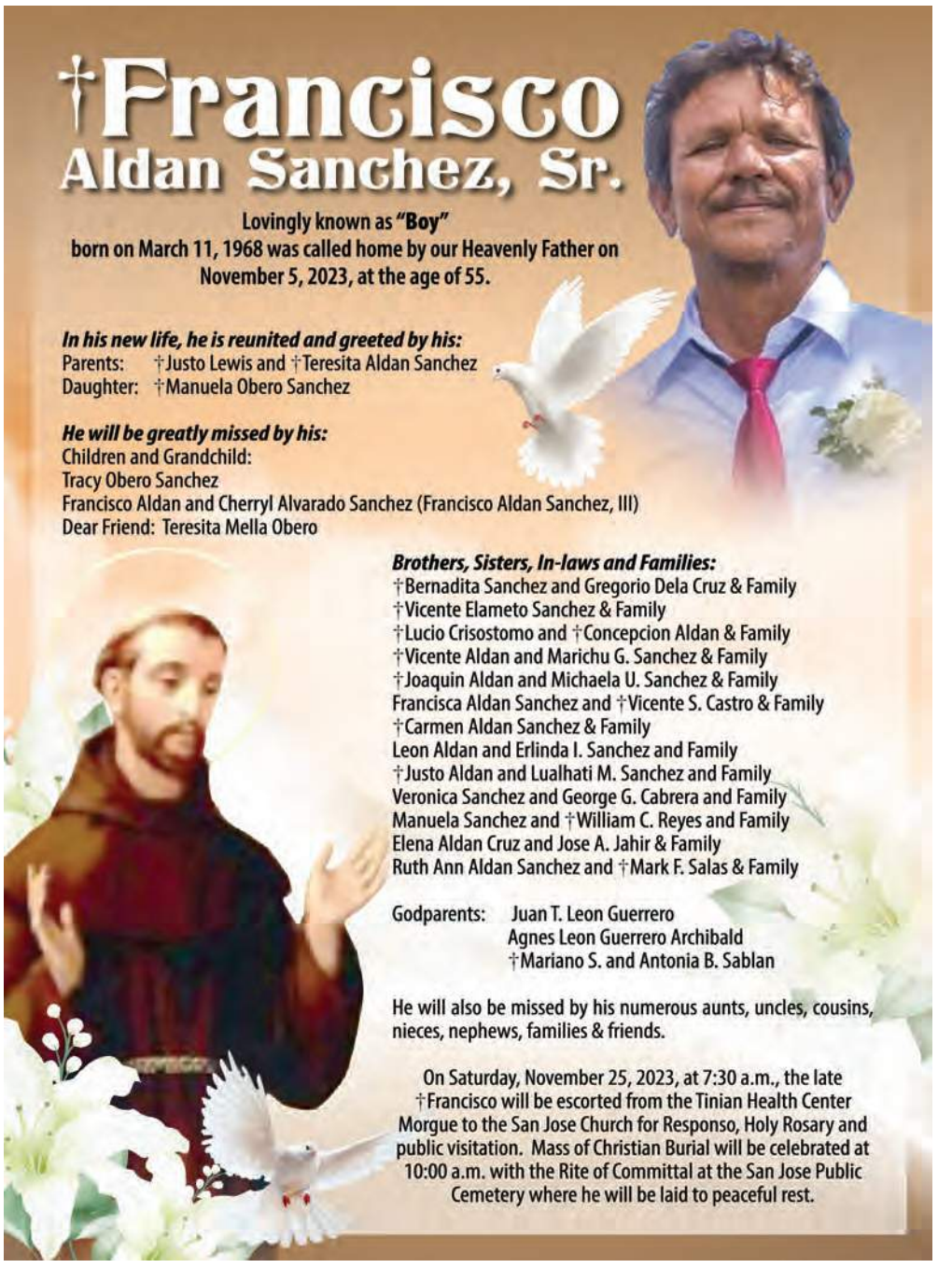
Satellite imagery from Monday showed forces advancing on Krynky on the eastern bank about 22 miles (35 kilometers) northeast of Kherson city, the institute said.

Russian military bloggers have reported intense fighting near Krynky.

The Moscow-appointed governor for the Russia-occupied part of the Kherson region, Vladimir Saldo, said Ukrainian forces lost up to two battalions crossing the river and trying to maintain their foothold on the east bank.

On his Telegram channel, he claimed that Ukrainian forces in Krynky were facing a "fiery hell" of intense bombardment and were being destroyed "on a large scale."

Ukrainian forces have long established positions in several areas on the eastern bank and sought to expand them, using boats to ferry supplies.


†Francisco
Aldan Sanchez, Sr.
Lovingly known as "Boy"
born on March 11, 1968 was called home by our Heavenly Father on
November 5, 2023, at the age of 55.
In his new life, he is reunited and greeted by his:
Parents: †Justo Lewis and †Teresita Aldan Sanchez
Daughter: †Manuela Obero Sanchez
He will be greatly missed by his:
Children and Grandchild:
Tracy Obero Sanchez
Francisco Aldan and Cherryl Alvarado Sanchez (Francisco Aldan Sanchez, III)
Dear Friend: Teresita Mella Obero
Brothers, Sisters, In-laws and Families:
†Bernadita Sanchez and Gregorio Dela Cruz & Family
†Vicente Elameto Sanchez & Family
†Lucio Crisostomo and †Concepcion Aldan & Family
†Vicente Aldan and Marichu G. Sanchez & Family
†Joaquin Aldan and Michaela U. Sanchez & Family
Francisca Aldan Sanchez and †Vicente S. Castro & Family
†Carmen Aldan Sanchez & Family
Leon Aldan and Erlinda I. Sanchez and Family
†Justo Aldan and Lualhati M. Sanchez and Family
Veronica Sanchez and George G. Cabrera and Family
Manuela Sanchez and †William C. Reyes and Family
Elena Aldan Cruz and Jose A. Jahir & Family
Ruth Ann Aldan Sanchez and †Mark F. Salas & Family
Godparents: Juan T. Leon Guerrero
Agnes Leon Guerrero Archibald
†Mariano S. and Antonia B. Sablan
He will also be missed by his numerous aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces, nephews, families & friends.
On Saturday, November 25, 2023, at 7:30 a.m., the late †Francisco will be escorted from the Tinian Health Center Morgue to the San Jose Church for Responso, Holy Rosary and public visitation. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10:00 a.m. with the Rite of Committal at the San Jose Public Cemetery where he will be laid to peaceful rest.

Off The Wall

4 charged in theft of satirical golden toilet

AP

This Sept. 16, 2016 file image made from a video shows the 18-karat toilet, titled "America," by Maurizio Cattelan in the restroom of the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum in New York.

LONDON (AP)—Four men were charged Monday over the theft of an 18-carat gold toilet from Blenheim Palace, the sprawling English country mansion where British wartime leader Winston Churchill was born.

The toilet, valued at 4.8 million pounds ($5.95 million), was an artwork titled "America" and intended as a pointed satire about excessive wealth by Italian conceptual artist Maurizio Cattelan. It was part of an art installation at Blenheim Palace, near the city of Oxford, a few days before it vanished overnight in September 2019.

The Crown Prosecution Service said Monday it has authorized criminal charges against four men, ages 35-39, over the theft. They are accused of burglary and conspiracy to transfer criminal property.

Seven people had been arrested over the heist, but no charges have been brought until Monday, four years after the toilet was stolen. The artwork has never been found.

The golden toilet was fully functioning, and prior to the theft, visitors to the exhibition could book a three-minute appointment to use it. Police said that because the toilet had been connected to the palace's plumbing system, its removal caused "significant damage and flooding" to the 18th-century building, a UNESCO World Heritage site filled with valuable art and furniture that draws thousands of visitors each year.

The Guggenheim Museum in New York, where the artwork was installed in a bathroom prior to it being shown at Blenheim Palace, described the toilet as "cast in 18-carat gold."

The museum said the artwork invited viewers to "make use of the fixture individually and privately" to experience "unprecedented intimacy with a work of art."

In 2021, the Thames Valley Police, the force investigating the theft, suggested that it would be a "challenge" to recover the toilet.

"Will we ever see that toilet again? Personally I wonder if it's in the shape of a toilet to be perfectly honest," police and crime commissioner Matthew Barber told the BBC. "If you have that large amount of gold I think it seems likely that someone has already managed to dispose of it one way or another."

The four suspects will appear at Oxford Magistrates' Court on Nov. 28, prosecutors said.

Prosecutors close investigation of Berlin aquarium collapse; cause is still unclear

BERLIN (AP)—Prosecutors in Berlin said Tuesday they have closed their investigation into the spectacular collapse of a huge aquarium last December after an expert report failed to pin down a reason why the tank burst.

The AquaDom aquarium, which stood in a hotel lobby in the center of the German capital, burst in the early hours of Dec. 16, sending 1 million liters (264,000 gallons) of water gushing into the building and the street outside. Two people were slightly injured.

Prosecutors said they have closed an investigation of persons unknown on suspicion of causing bodily harm by negligence after evaluating the export report, commissioned by the building's owners, which they received on Oct. 6.

Its author, engineer Christian Bonten, has presented three theories but said there was no clear evidence to prove any of them.

The hypotheses were that an adhesive seam holding together the cylinder may have failed; that the tank may have been damaged by a dent in its base when the aquarium was modernized in 2020; or that the tank may have been refilled too late after that modernization, drying the acrylic glass walls out too much.

Prosecutors said in a statement that since the cause couldn't be pinpointed, they had no lead to follow in terms of who might be responsible. They said there had never been any suspicion of a deliberate act.

The aquarium first opened in 2003. There are no plans to rebuild it.

Authorities have said that nearly all of the 1,500 fish that were inside at the time of the rupture died but "a few fish at the bottom of the tank" were saved. About 400 to 500 mostly small fish from a separate set of aquariums housed under the hotel lobby were evacuated to other tanks in a neighboring aquarium that was unaffected.

Deer charges through crowded restaurant

BELOIT, Wis. (AP)—People go to Noodles & Company to save a buck, not to have one interrupt their meal. But that's what happened in Beloit, Wisconsin, on Tuesday when a deer came crashing through the restaurant's window.

Surveillance footage shows a deer charging into the crowded restaurant around lunchtime, prompting diners to scatter. The animal then explored the dining area and kitchen before exiting out a back door opened by an employee, Noodles & Company spokesperson Stephanie Jerome told The Associated Press.

No one was harmed in the incident, and the location has since reopened after a deep clean, Jerome said. The restaurant offered a "2 Buck Mac & Cheese" special on Wednesday to commemorate the incident.

Science & Technology

NASA shows off its first asteroid samples delivered by a spacecraft

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP)—NASA on Wednesday showed off its first asteroid samples delivered last month by a spacecraft—a jumble of black dust and rubble that's the most ever returned to Earth.

Scientists anticipated getting a cupful but are still unsure how much was grabbed from the carbon-rich asteroid named Bennu, almost 60 million miles (97 million kilometers) away. That's because the main sample chamber has yet to be opened, officials said during an event at Johnson Space Center in Houston.

"It's been going slow and meticulous, but the science is already starting," said the mission's lead scientist, Dante Lauretta of the University of Arizona.

NASA's Osiris-Rex spacecraft collected the samples three years ago from the surface of Bennu and then dropped them off sealed in a capsule during a flyby of Earth last month. The expected cupful was far more than the teaspoon or so that Japan brought back from a pair of missions.

Black dust and particles were scattered around the outside edge of the internal sample chamber, according to Lauretta. He said there's still "a whole treasure chest of extraterrestrial material" to be studied. The samples are priceless, the preserved building blocks from the dawn of the solar system.

No one at Wednesday's celebration at Johnson got to see any of the samples firsthand—just photos and video. The asteroid pieces were behind locked doors in a new lab at the space center, accessible only to scientists in protective gear.

Besides carbon, the asteroid rubble holds water in the form of water-bearing clay minerals, Lauretta and others pointed out.

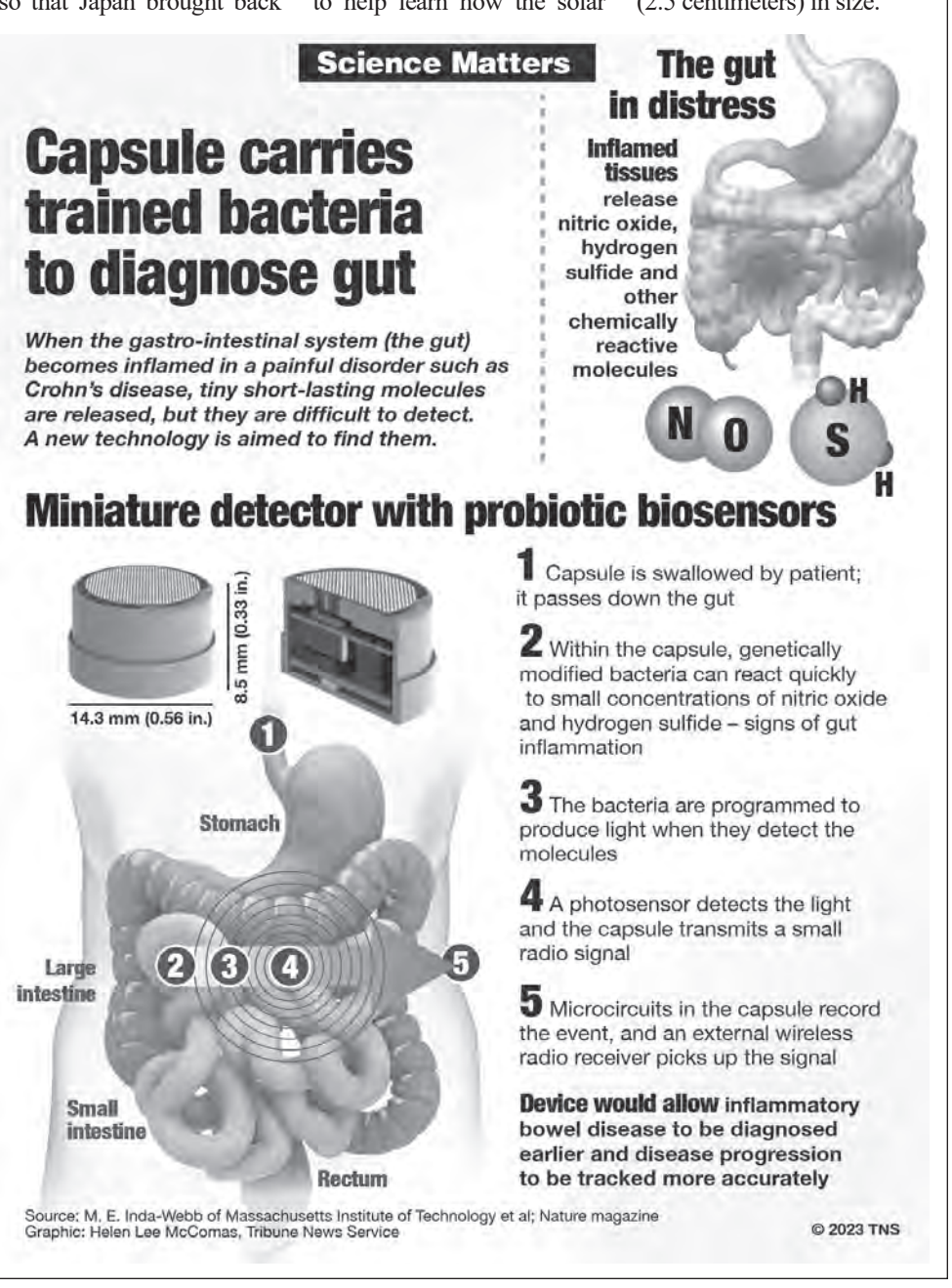
"That is how we think water got to the Earth," he said. "Minerals like we're seeing from Bennu landed on Earth 4 billion years ago to 4.5 billion years ago, making our world habitable."

That was one of the primary reasons for the $1 billion, seven-year mission: to help learn how the solar system—and Earth in particular—formed. "You can't get more exciting than that," said NASA Administrator Bill Nelson.

Back in 2020, Lauretta and his team lost some of their haul when the lid on the sample container jammed a few days after the spacecraft collected the material. It vacuumed up so many pieces from Bennu that small rocks got lodged under the lid and prevented it from closing, sending pieces floating off into space.

That's why scientists did not have a precise measurement of what was coming back; they estimated 250 grams, or about a cupful, ahead of the Sept. 24 landing in the Utah desert. They won't have a good count until the container is opened, within two weeks or so.

Much of the material shown Wednesday was overflow from when the lid was stuck open, before everything could be sealed inside the return capsule. The larger visible rocks were under an inch (2.5 centimeters) in size.


Science Matters
Capsule carries trained bacteria to diagnose gut
When the gastro-intestinal system (the gut) becomes inflamed in a painful disorder such as Crohn's disease, tiny short-lasting molecules are released, but they are difficult to detect. A new technology is aimed to find them.
The gut in distress
Inflamed tissues release nitric oxide, hydrogen sulfide and other chemically reactive molecules
N O S H H
Miniature detector with probiotic biosensors
8.5 mm (0.33 in.)
14.3 mm (0.56 in.)
Stomach
Large intestine
Small intestine
Rectum
1 Capsule is swallowed by patient; it passes down the gut
2 Within the capsule, genetically modified bacteria can react quickly to small concentrations of nitric oxide and hydrogen sulfide – signs of gut inflammation
3 The bacteria are programmed to produce light when they detect the molecules
4 A photosensor detects the light and the capsule transmits a small radio signal
5 Microcircuits in the capsule record the event, and an external wireless radio receiver picks up the signal
Device would allow inflammatory bowel disease to be diagnosed earlier and disease progression to be tracked more accurately
Source: M. E. Inda-Webb of Massachusetts Institute of Technology et al; Nature magazine
Graphic: Helen Lee McComas, Tribune News Service
© 2023 TNS

Life & Style

Matthew Perry's 'Friends' co-stars reminiscence about late actor

LOS ANGELES (AP)—All five of Matthew Perry's "Friends" co-stars are sharing more remembrances of the star in their first personal social media posts since the actor's death last month.

Jennifer Aniston, Courteney Cox, Lisa Kudrow and Matt LeBlanc and David Schwimmer each posted heartfelt notes about Perry, who died Oct. 28, on Instagram. The posts on Tuesday and Wednesday were accompanied by photos from the "Friends" set.

"In the last couple weeks, I've been pouring over our texts to one another. Laughing and crying then laughing again," Aniston posted Wednesday, sharing a text message where Perry sent her photo of a script reading session where Perry made her laugh.

"Oh boy this one has cut deep... Having to say goodbye to our Matty has been an insane wave of emotions that I've never experienced before," Aniston's post read.

REED SAXON/AP

David Schwimmer, from left, Lisa Kudrow, Matthew Perry, Courteney Cox, Jennifer Aniston and Matt LeBlanc pose after "Friends" won outstanding comedy series at the 54th Primetime Emmy Awards on Sept. 22, 2002, in Los Angeles.

Kudrow became the fifth "Friends" star to pay personal tribute to Perry amid the wave of mourning.

"Thank you for making me laugh so hard at something you said, that my muscles ached, and tears poured down my face EVERY DAY," she said in an Instagram post. "Thank you for the best 10 years a person gets to have."

The stars issued a joint statement a few days after Perry's death, saying they were "all so utterly devastated by the loss of Matthew. We were more than just cast mates. We are a family."

Schwimmer posted a photo of him and Perry dressed up as "Miami Vice" characters, calling it "one of my favorite moments with you."

"Now it makes me smile and grieve at the same time," Schwimmer's post said.

LeBlanc posted Tuesday: "It was an honor to share the stage with you and to call you my friend. I will always smile when I think of you and I'll never forget you. Never." His post included one candid shot of the cast all hugging on set.

Perry was found dead last month at his Los Angeles home. After an initial investigation, the Los Angeles County coroner deferred giving a cause of death, which may take weeks to determine.

Cox shared a video clip of a "Friends" scene where her and Perry's characters are in bed, trying not to have their relationship discovered. It's an iconic moment of the show, and Cox shared a bit of backstory about filming.

Jimmy Kimmel to host the Oscars for the fourth time

NEW YORK (AP)—Jimmy Kimmel is returning as host of the Academy Awards for the second straight year and fourth time overall, the Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences announced Wednesday.

ABC is turning again to its late-night host a year after bringing Kimmel back for a 2023 ceremony that drew 18.7 million viewers, the most since 2020's pre-pandemic broadcast. In the wake of Will Smith's slap of Chris Rock at the 2022 Oscars, Kimmel led a cautious ceremony that helped stabilize the Academy Awards after years of turmoil.

Kimmel also hosted the Oscars in 2017 and 2018.

"I always dreamed of hosting the Oscars exactly four times," Kimmel said in a statement.

Though the comic is inching up in the record books, he's still a long ways from the most frequent Oscar emcee. That title belongs to Bob Hope, who hosted a record 19 times either solo or as a co-host. Billy Crystal hosted nine times all between 1990 and 2012.

Kimmel

The film academy earlier announced that Raj Kapoor will serve as executive producer and showrunner, Katy Mullan will executive produce and Hamish Hamilton will direct. They'll be joined by Molly McNearney, executive producer of "Jimmy Kimmel Live" and Kimmel's wife, who will return for a second consecutive year to serve as an executive producer for the show.

"Jimmy has cemented himself as one of the all-time great Oscars hosts with his perfect blend of humanity and humor, and Molly is one of the best live TV producers around," Kapoor and Mullan said in a statement.

The 96th Academy Awards will air live on ABC on March 10 from the Dolby Theatre in Los Angeles.

Justin Torres, Ned Blackhawk among National Book Awards winners

NEW YORK (AP)—Justin Torres' novel "Blackouts," a daring and illustrated narrative that blends history and imagination in its recounting of a censored study of gay sexuality, has won the National Book Award for fiction.

On Wednesday night, the nonfiction prize was awarded to Ned Blackhawk's "The Rediscovery of America: Native Peoples and the Unmaking of U.S. History" and young people's literature was won by Dan Santat's "A First Time for Everything." Craig Santos Perez's "from incorporated territory (åmot)," the fifth work in his series about his native Guam, was cited for best poetry, and Stênio Gardel's "The Words That Remain," translated from Portuguese by Bruna Dantas Lobato, won for literature in translation.

Torres, whose book imagines a conversation between a dying man and the young friend he educates about a real history called "Sex Variants," gave a brief acceptance speech before he was joined by more than a dozen nominees who gathered to present a statement about the Israel-Hamas war. Read by fiction nominee Aaliyah Bilal, the statement condemned the "ongoing bombardment of Gaza," antisemitism, anti-Palestinian sentiments and Islamophobia and called for a humanitarian cease-fire. The authors received a standing ovation after Bilal finished.

Kevin Hart will receive the Kennedy Center's Mark Twain Prize

WASHINGTON (AP)—Comedian Kevin Hart has been chosen to receive the Kennedy Center's Mark Twain Prize for lifetime achievement in American humor, capping a three-decade career that has seen him rise from the open mics of Philadelphia to become one of his generation's most successful performers.

Hart, 44, launched his career as a teenager performing at venues such as The Laff House in his native Philadelphia under the name of Lil Kev. He recalled his early stand-up performances as a string of brutal failures that included being booed off the stage multiple times and at one point, he claimed, having a piece of chicken thrown at him on stage.

Gradually, Hart honed a signature style that combined his diminutive stature, expressive face and motormouth delivery and made him a wildly successful touring act. He made his movie debut in the 2002 film "Paper Soldiers" and came to mainstream fame through a string of scene-stealing cameos in mega-hits such as 2005's "The 40-Year-Old-Virgin."

Hart has gone on to become one of the country's most bankable and ubiquitous performers, with 11 of his films opening at No. 1 at the box office. All told, his films have grossed more than $4.23 billion in global revenue.

Emotionally abused friend has a network of support

DEAR ABBY: My best friend "Owen's" wife, "Shirley," is a narcissist, and she's driving everyone away from him. They have been married for 10 years. I've known Owen since high school. He has always been a quiet, easygoing guy. Shirley is a nightmare. She has berated him at work and has left him by himself on holidays, including birthdays. She orders him around, and she runs everything without hardly paying for anything. I am divorced and I've been through it.

I don't know how to tell Owen that there's a safety net for him. I know telling him his wife is a crazy narcissist and he should leave isn't the answer. She has berated me for "getting in their marriage." My friend is afraid he has no support if he leaves because Shirley has alienated him from all of his friends, and the only family he has are his parents and sister, who live many miles away. She has pushed me away from him as well. What can I say to Owen to make him understand that there are people here who are just waiting for him to ask for help without his feeling I am pressuring him?

HAS HIS BACK IN FLORIDA

DEAR HAS HIS BACK: There is more than one kind of partner abuse. Although most people associate the term with physical violence, another is emotional. It appears Owen is the victim of many years of emotional battery. Because he is scared, a group that might lend him emotional support is Stop Abuse for Everyone (stopabuseforeveryone.org). It's a nonprofit that provides services for domestic violence victims of all ages, genders and sexual orientations and helps those who typically fall between the cracks of domestic violence services. Please mention it to Owen and remind him that he may not be as isolated as he fears, because his friends are waiting to support him when he is ready.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: My family doesn't know I have cancer in my kidneys, and I don't want to tell them. I feel that when the time comes, it comes, but my boyfriend keeps pushing me to tell them. I don't want anybody to be worried about me or my health.

I've been the black sheep of the family since I was a child. Nobody was there for me except my grandmother, but she's no longer living. I just feel my family doesn't need to know anything. Am I being selfish about what I'm going through, wanting to keep my illness to myself and, when the time comes, let my boyfriend tell them what happened?

BLACK SHEEP IN NEW YORK

DEAR BLACK SHEEP: I'm sorry about your diagnosis. You are not being selfish. If your family hasn't been there for you in the past, I understand your reluctance to court further rejection. While it might be nice to give them an opportunity to atone for their past behavior, there are no guarantees they will. Your health status is YOUR business and no one else's, so don't allow your boyfriend (as well-meaning as he may be) to push you into anything you don't want at this point.

■■■

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

BY ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

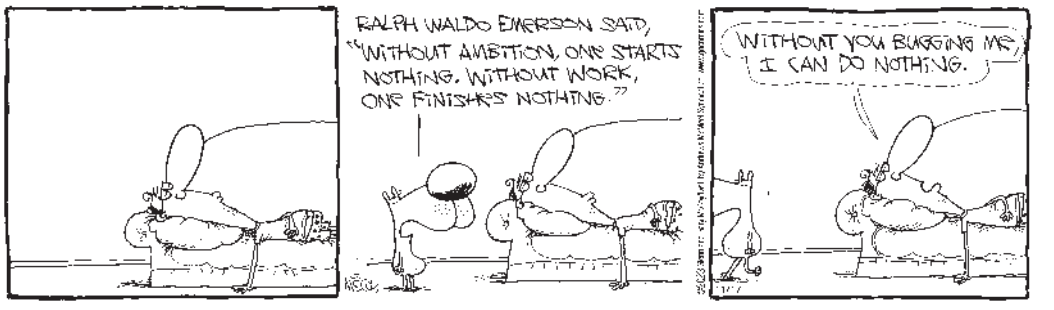
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

LAURA, I'VE MADE A DECISION.
YEAH?
YOUR BOOKS ARE DOING SO WELL, AND MY WRITING ISN'T.
I THINK I SHOULD REJOIN THE WORK-FORCE. GET A "REAL JOB."
THEN SHE PASSED OUT?
I'M NOT SURE. SHE MAY BE MILKING IT FOR COMEDIC EFFECT.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


RALPH WALDO EMERSON SAID, "WITHOUT AMBITION, ONE STARTS NOTHING. WITHOUT WORK, ONE FINISHES NOTHING."
WITHOUT YOU BUGGING ME, I CAN DO NOTHING.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 "It's a Wonderful Life" director
6 Play part
9 Pantheon member
12 Implore
13 Slangy denial
14 "So that's it!"
15 Earth Day month
16 Pertaining to the tongue
18 Global org. for kids
20 Father (Fr.)
21 Hosp. workers
23 — canto
24 Livestock lineage
25 Optimist's credo
27 — Lama
29 Royal home
31 Bothers
35 Malia's sibling
37 "House" actor Omar
38 Wimp
41 Branch
43 "Alley —"
44 Met solo
45 Alaskan capital
47 Thumbs-down
49 Ninnies
52 Picnic crasher
53 Verse by Pablo Neruda
54 Faucet woes
55 "— a Rebel"
56 Marry
57 Red-tag events

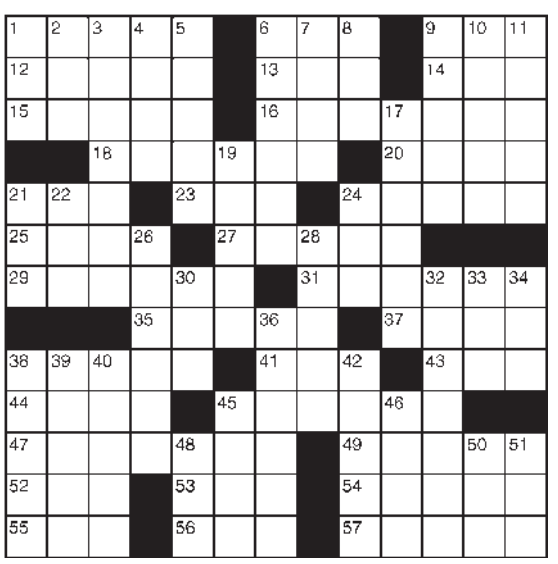
DOWN

1 IRS employee
2 Jungfrau, for one
3 Reading
4 Umbrella weather
5 Extemporize
6 Actress Lansbury
7 Young whale
8 Duo
9 Visit
10 Chicago airport
11 Parceled (out)
17 Elf
19 Surrenders
21 Quick swim
22 — Victor
24 Sheepish "Hello!"
26 Bahamas capital
28 Discover
30 Archipelago part
32 Partner-related
33 Mil. address
34 Recipe abbr.
36 Carried with effort
38 Jazzy Vaughan
39 Cara or Castle
40 Prepares flour
42 Daily trio
45 Green gem
46 On the briny
48 Plant seeds
50 — out a living
51 Radiator sound

Solution time: 25 mins.

V	E	H	B		I	U	B		P	A	P	A
A	L	C	E		C	V	C		O	N	U	S
N	E	A	R		N	A	C		M	D	C	I
S	C	R	E	E	N		R	U	P	E	E	S
			H	R	Y			M	E	R		
D	U	C	T		S	U	P	P	O	S	F	D
O	R	I			O	S	F			C	I	F
C	L	A	R	I	N	E	T		S	N	O	W
		R	E	D			E	R	A			
C	A	K	I	E	R		R	A	T	I	O	S
A	S	S	N		I	V	S		O	N	I	T
S	H	O	L		M	I	O		U	G	L	Y
S	E	N	D		S	A	N		I	A	Y	E

Yesterday's answer 11-17



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Rachel McAdams, 45; Dylan Walsh, 60; Danny DeVito, 79; Martin Scorsese, 81.

Happy Birthday: It's up to you to make your dreams come true. Take the initiative and get the ball rolling. Making excuses will lead to regret, but taking hold of your life and what you want will lift your spirits and make you believe in yourself. Change is overdue, and with it will come opportunity and life experience. Build your life according to your plans. Your numbers are 8, 13, 24, 28, 35, 39, 42.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Think matters through and act. Changing how you handle or earn cash will buy you the freedom to do something you enjoy. Personal gain and spending time with someone who brings out the best in you will lead to new beginnings. ✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Observe and proceed with optimism. Change begins with you, so take a step in a direction that offers an opportunity to be who you want and use your skills as you intend. Don't let uncertainty or insecurity stand between you and your happiness. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Take care of your needs or relax with someone you love. The conversations you have will help solve issues that stand between you and your dreams. Don't limit what you can do; find a way to overcome whatever holds you back. Love is favored. ✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Take care of yourself, your home and your loved ones. Listen to complaints and choose to help those in need. Look for a unique way to use your skills; someone will recognize the value in what you offer. Explore your options. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Think matters through before sharing your thoughts. Finding out what others want will help you navigate your way forward, offering everyone something to ensure you get something important to you. The art of communication, coupled with charisma, will pay off. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* An unexpected change will give you the boost you need to improve your life. A rational discussion will lead to a commonsense resolution. It's time to implement what makes you happy into your everyday routine. ✪✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Pay more attention to how you present yourself and your ideas to others. An entertaining element will help increase interest and support for what you are trying to achieve. Don't let negativity or financial disagreements upset you. ✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Speed things up and watch everything as it falls into place. Be the engineer of your destiny and utilize what you enjoy most in your everyday routine. Home improvements that include expanding what you want most will prop you up for more significant pursuits. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Focus less on what you cannot change and more on the changes that will improve your position, reputation and finances. Don't limit what you can achieve because of what others choose to do. Follow the path that feels right and best for you. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

COPYRIGHT 2007 UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Don't give in to pressure or limit what you can do because you feel incompetent. Research will help you gain confidence and understand what's possible. It's time to take control and do your part to ensure your life takes the direction you deserve. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Put more effort into how you look and feel. A positive attitude will help you make better decisions and attract people equipped to contribute to your concerns and plans. Don't let anger set in when positive action will make a difference. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Play by the rules to avoid intervention. Look for opportunities that will save you cash and encourage you to use your skills to raise your income. A unique idea will help you branch out in a direction that ties into what's trending. ✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are versatile, robust and understanding. You are courageous and productive.

✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

9		8				2	4	
						7	3	6
		6		9				
1	8		4		6			
5	4		3		8			9
7		3		4			1	8
	6	5		1				7
8	1			6	7	3	5	

Difficulty: ★★★★ 11/17

©2012 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

7	4	6	8	5	3	2	1	9
9	2	1	4	6	7	8	3	5
8	5	3	9	2	1	4	7	6
4	1	5	2	8	6	3	9	7
2	6	9	3	7	5	1	8	4
3	7	8	1	9	4	5	6	2
5	9	2	7	1	8	6	4	3
6	8	4	5	3	9	7	2	1
1	3	7	6	4	2	9	5	8

©2023 King Features Syndicate, Inc.

Difficulty: ★★★ 11/16

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

HAIR GADGETS **Solution: 4 letters**

Y	L	F	R	E	T	T	U	B	R	I	S	T	L	E
V	A	N	G	I	S	E	D	E	T	A	N	G	L	E
A	C	R	O	L	L	E	R	E	T	S	U	D	L	E
W	C	R	P	B	P	L	A	C	S	O	D	Y	I	L
A	E	A	I	S	W	B	L	P	S	A	T	S	A	Z
N	S	Z	C	M	R	I	A	N	P	E	E	O	T	Z
D	S	O	K	U	P	C	O	B	M	B	A	N	Y	O
D	O	R	S	S	R	I	L	P	S	A	S	O	N	N
I	R	H	O	E	S	O	E	S	K	R	I	B	O	O
F	Y	D	W	N	W	R	A	L	R	B	N	B	P	R
F	P	O	E	D	A	L	I	S	L	E	G	I	E	I
U	H	T	R	T	O	S	T	O	O	R	W	R	A	T
S	X	Y	U	N	T	O	N	E	R	B	M	O	R	A
E	E	R	E	M	M	I	R	T	R	A	V	E	L	L
R	E	L	R	U	C	L	E	A	N	S	E	R	S	F

© 2023 Andrews McMeel Syndication www.wonderword.com 11/17

Accessory, Barber, Blow-dryer, Bristle, Brush, Butterfly, Cleanser, Clips, Crimp, Curler, Design, Detangle, Diffuser, Duster, Dyson, Extensions, Flat Iron, Flowers, Gels, Nozzle, Ombre, Paddle, Pearls, Picks, Ponytail, Razor, Ribbon, Roller, Roots, Salon, Scalp, Shower Cap, Silk, Spray, Teasing, Temperature, Toner, Travel, Trimmer, Updo, Wand, Wavy

Yesterday's Answer: Supernova

Purchase **THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volumes 56 through 75,** in time for the holidays at www.WonderWordBooks.com. (In Canada, call 1-855-232-2367)

Randle, Brunson lead Knicks to victory over Atlanta Hawks

ATLANTA (AP)—Jalen Brunson scored 24 points, including a pull-up jumper from the top of the lane with 18.8 seconds remaining, and the New York Knicks held on for a 116-114 victory over the Atlanta Hawks on Wednesday night.

Julius Randle led the Knicks with 29 points, while the Hawks didn't get much out of their guard duo of Trae Young and Dejounte Murray. Young had 15 points and Murray was held to 13.

"We showed a lot of toughness—more mental than physical—and found a way to win," Knicks coach Tom Thibodeau said.

Young had a chance to tie it for the Hawks, but he missed the second of two free throws to leave the Knicks with a 112-111 lead in a fourth quarter than went back and forth.

Brunson came the other way and calmly knocked down the shot that gave New York some breathing room.

"He couldn't find his rhythm early," Thibodeau said. "But he just kept working the game, working the game, working the game."

Murray scored on a drive to again make it a one-point game, only to have Immanuel Quickley sink a pair of free throws with 8.9 seconds remaining.

Bogdan Bogdanovic, who led the Hawks with 28 points, missed badly on a rushed 3-pointer off the inbounds pass. But Atlanta got one more chance when New York was called for a five-second violation trying to inbound the ball.

Murray raced down looking to get off a shot beyond the arc, but Brunson managed to foul him before he went up. Murray made the first throw and intentionally missed the second, but Atlanta's Onyeka Okongwu was called for a lane violation when he stepped over the line too soon.

"We're still figuring it out," said Atlanta's Jalen Johnson, who had 18 points. "I'm hoping it happens sooner than later."

Atlanta appeared to have the upper hand when Saddiq Bey slammed one home off a missed 3-pointer by Bogdanovic, pushing the Hawks to a 101-94 lead.

AP

New York Knicks guard Jalen Brunson (11) attempts to shoot the ball against Atlanta Hawks forward Saddiq Bey (41) in the second half of an NBA basketball game, Wednesday, Nov. 15, 2023, in Atlanta.

After a timeout, New York bounced back with eight straight points as Immanuel Quickley and Brunson both knocked down 3s. Quickley finished with 20 points.

The Knicks led by as many as 13 in the first half. Randle led the way, filling the void with RJ Barrett missing his second straight game suffering from a migraine.

Randle also had 10 rebounds and eight assists, while Mitchell Robinson grabbed 15 rebounds and created all sorts of havoc for the Knicks in the lane.

With Atlanta getting little out of its starting guards, Bogdanovic and Bey came off the bench to lead the Hawks back.

Bogdanovic knocked down a couple of 3-pointers as part of a 10-point quarter, while Bey chipped in with nine points. Johnson added eight, closing the deficit to 57-56 at halftime.

With Barrett already sidelined, the Knicks lost another player when Quentin Grimes headed to locker room early in the fourth quarter with an apparent wrist left injury. Thibodeau called it a bruise and doesn't think it's a serious issue.

Grimes was hurt while defending a drive to the basket by Bogdanovic.

CELTICS 117, 76ERS 107

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Derrick White scored 14 of his 27 points in the fourth quarter to lead the short-handed Boston Celtics to a 117-107 win over the Philadelphia 76ers on Wednesday night in a matchup of the early pacesetters in the Eastern Conference.

Jayson Tatum scored a game-high 29 points and Jrue Holiday added 18 points, 10 rebounds and three assists for the Celtics, who were missing Jaylen Brown with an illness and Kristaps Porzingis with a right knee contusion.

Philadelphia, playing its second game in a back-to-back and third game in four nights, got 20 points apiece from Joel Embiid and Tyrese Maxey.

Sam Hauser and Al Horford took the places of Brown and Porzingis in the starting lineup, with Horford scoring 14 points as the Celtics won their fourth in a row.

MAGIC 96, BULLS 94

CHICAGO (AP)—Paolo Banchero nailed a turnaround jumper with one second remaining, and Orlando beat Chicago.

The Magic led by as much as 19 in the third quarter, only to have Chicago tie it in the closing seconds of the game on a 3-pointer by Zach LaVine.

Banchero led Orlando with 17 points and Goga Bitadze had 15 points and 11 rebounds. Cole Anthony scored 16.

LaVine scored 19 for the Bulls, who were without DeMar DeRozan, who missed the game for personal reasons. Nikola Vucevic had 17 points and nine rebounds.

KINGS 125, LAKERS 110

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Domantas Sabonis had 29 points and 16 rebounds, and Sacramento overcame LeBron James' 108th career triple-double for a win over Los Angeles.

De'Aaron Fox and Kevin Huerter scored 28 points apiece for the Kings, who won their fourth straight and snapped Los Angeles' three-game winning streak.

James had 28 points, 11 assists and 10 rebounds in his first triple-double of his 21st NBA season, breaking his tie with Jason Kidd for the fifth-most in NBA history.

D'Angelo Russell scored 28 points for the Lakers, who lost at home for the first time in six games this season.

MAVERICKS 130, WIZARDS 117

WASHINGTON (AP)—Luka Doncic scored 26 points and had 10 assists as Dallas eased to a victory over Washington.

Tim Hardaway Jr. scored 31 points and sank seven 3-pointers for the Mavericks on a night point guard Kyrie Irving sat out with a sprained left foot.

Derrick Jones Jr. had 20 points and Dereck Lively II had 17 on 7 of 8 shooting.

Kyle Kuzma scored 22 points to lead the Wizards, who lost their fourth straight. Jordan Poole added 16 points and Deni Avdija had 15.

BUCKS 128, RAPTORS 112

TORONTO (AP)—Damian Lillard had 37 points and a season-high 13 assists, Malik Beasley scored a season-high 30 and Milwaukee overcame Giannis Antetokounmpo's absence to beat Toronto.

Antetokounmpo missed his first game of the season after playing the first 10, sitting out because of a strained right calf.

Bobby Portis scored 18 points for Milwaukee and Cameron Payne had 13.

The Bucks finished 20 for 39 from long range, matching a season-high for made 3-pointers.

Scottie Barnes scored 29 points for the Raptors. Jakob Poeltl had 13 points and 11 rebounds.

SUNS 133, TIMBERWOLVES 115

PHOENIX (AP)—Devin Booker scored 31 points in his return from a calf injury, Kevin Durant also scored 31 and Phoenix ended Minnesota's seven-game winning streak.

Booker shot 12 of 22 from the field, adding five assists and four rebounds. Durant made 11 of 15 shots.

Phoenix dominated the game for the majority of the night, taking a six-point lead after one quarter, a 22-point lead at halftime and a 28-point advantage into the final quarter.

Eric Gordon scored 15 for the Suns, Grayson Allen added 14 and Drew Eubanks had 13.

Karl Anthony-Towns led the Timberwolves with 25 points and Mike Conley added 14 points.

CAVALIERS 109, TRAIL BLAZERS 95

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP)—Donovan Mitchell scored 34 points and Cleveland handed Portland its fifth straight loss.

Evan Mobley added 21 points and 12 rebounds, and the Cavaliers finished 2-2 on their western road trip.

Jerami Grant led short-handed Portland with 17 points and Duop Reath, a center on a two-way contract, came off the bench to score 16 points.

Warriors' Green suspended 5 games for grabbing Gobert; 3 players fined

NEW YORK (AP)—The NBA has suspended Golden State's Draymond Green for five games for grabbing Minnesota's Rudy Gobert around the neck "in an unsportsmanlike and dangerous manner," the league said Wednesday night.

Also penalized by the league for their roles in the incident, which happened early in Tuesday's game between the Timberwolves and Warriors, were Gobert, his Minnesota teammate Jaden McDaniels and Golden State guard Klay Thompson—all fined $25,000 by the league.

But Green will pay the biggest price, both in terms of games missed and money lost. The suspension will cost him $769,704 in forfeited salary.

"The length of the suspension is based in part on Green's history of unsportsmanlike acts," the NBA said in the release announcing the penalties. Those sanctions were handed down by Joe Dumars, the NBA's Executive Vice President and Head of Basketball Operations—and a longtime mentor of Green's.

The incident started when Thompson and McDaniels "became entangled and were grabbing and pulling at one another's jerseys," the NBA said, and got further out of hand when Gobert got involved and put his arms around Thompson.

Green got involved not long after that, wrapping his arm around Gobert's neck.

Thompson and McDaniels were each assessed a technical foul and ejected, while Green was assessed a Flagrant Foul 2 for grabbing Gobert. That category of flagrant comes with an automatic ejection, which was Green's second in Golden State's last three games.

Gobert voiced his displeasure with his fine after Wednesday night's game against the Suns.

"Every situation is different, but to me, that was more than just a reaction. That was a personal attack," Gobert said. "Me being fined when I was being a peacemaker, and I chose to keep my hands up while I was being assaulted, it's shameful. Shameful. And I'm going to appeal that fine."

Green will miss home games Thursday and Saturday against Oklahoma City, another home game Monday against Houston, a road game with Phoenix on Nov. 22 and then a home NBA In-Season Tournament game against San Antonio on Nov. 24.

He would be eligible to return Nov. 28 at Sacramento. The Warriors — who will also be without star guard Stephen Curry for at least Thursday's game because of a knee issue — have lost four consecutive games and are 6-6 through 12 games this season, just 1-4 at home.

'Big Baby' Davis, Will Bynum convicted in NBA insurance fraud scheme

NEW YORK (AP)—Former Boston Celtics forward Glen "Big Baby" Davis and ex-Piston Will Bynum were convicted by a New York jury on Wednesday in a scheme that prosecutors say defrauded an insurance plan for NBA players and their families of more than $5 million.

More than 20 people have been convicted in the case, many of them onetime NBA players who submitted fictitious dental and medical claims to the NBA Players' Health and Benefit Welfare Plan. Terrence Williams, a 2009 first-round draft pick of the New Jersey Nets, was sentenced in August to a decade in prison as a ringleader of the scheme.

"Today's conviction exemplifies that despite notoriety or success in sports or any other field, no one is exempt from criminal charges if they engage in fraud," U.S. Attorney Damian Williams said in a statement.

Prosecutors said doctors and dentists working with the players created fraudulent invoices that were submitted to the supplemental insurance plan for reimbursement.

Davis, 37, was the Southeastern Conference player of the year while leading Louisiana State to the 2006 NCAA championship game. He was a member of the Celtics' 2008 NBA championship team during an eight-year pro career for Boston, Orlando and the Los Angeles Clippers.

Bynum, 40, played parts of four seasons in the NBA with the Nets, Rockets, Kings and Celtics, averaging 7.1 points and 2.4 assists in 153 games.

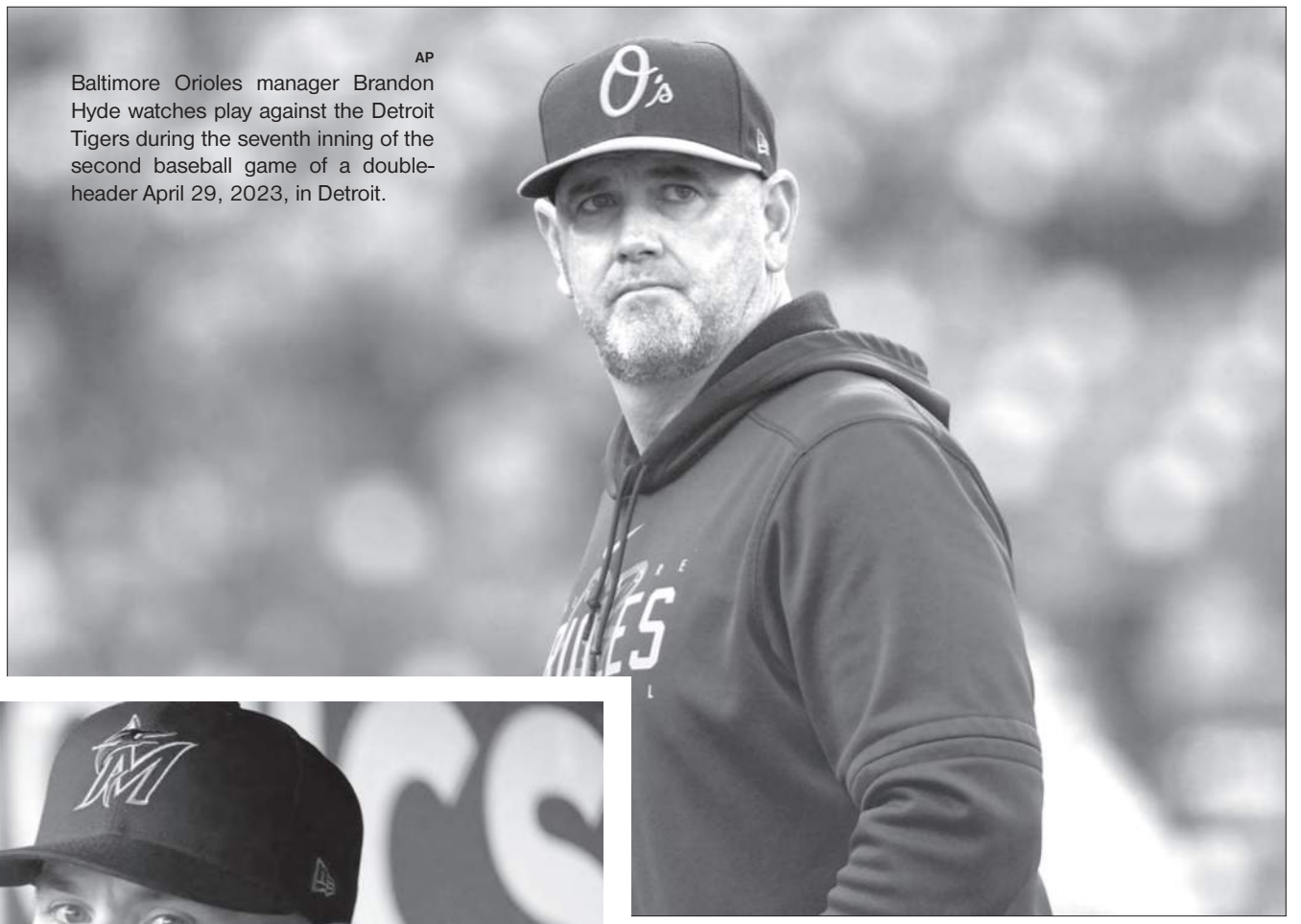
Baltimore's Hyde, Miami's Schumaker win Manager of the Year honors

BALTIMORE (AP)—Brandon Hyde's journey from the depths of a Baltimore rebuild to AL Manager of the Year required quite a bit of fortitude.

When asked what quality was most important to that rise, he was candid.

"I want to say patience, but I think I was guilty a lot of nights of not being patient," Hyde said. "I think consistent around the players. I think I hid a lot of things from them—in a good way."

Hyde was voted American League Manager of the Year on Tuesday night after guiding the Orioles to an AL-best 101 victories just two years after a 110-loss season. Miami's Skip Schumaker won the National League award in balloting by the Baseball Writers' Association of America.



AP

Baltimore Orioles manager Brandon Hyde watches play against the Detroit Tigers during the seventh inning of the second baseball game of a doubleheader April 29, 2023, in Detroit.

AP

Miami Marlins manager Skip Schumaker stands in the dugout before the team's baseball game against the Pittsburgh Pirates in Pittsburgh, Sept. 30, 2023.

Hyde led Baltimore through some very lean years before the Orioles improved to 83-79 in 2022 and he finished second in voting to Cleveland manager Terry Francona.

"I had confidence that we were going to turn this thing around, but you struggle to see when," Hyde said. "Last year, there came a point where you saw the light at the end of the tunnel."

Baltimore was more than ready to take the next step this season thanks to a sparkling core of young talent. Orioles infielder Gunnar Henderson was a unanimous AL Rookie of the Year on Monday night.

"Watching Gunnar win that last night, that was an amazing feeling. So happy for him and his family," Hyde said. "I'm fortunate to be around a great, great group of guys."

Hyde received 27 of 30 first-place votes, with Bruce Bochy of Texas getting the other three. Two-time winner Kevin Cash of Tampa Bay finished third. Bochy and the wild-card Rangers swept AL East champion Baltimore in the Division Series on their way to winning the World Series.

Schumaker led Miami to an 84-78 record—including 33-14 in one-run games—in his first season at the helm.

"A lot of this season just didn't make sense, and I think that's why our staff would kind of look at each other and go, 'Here we go again. You know it's going to happen—down three in the eighth and you know what's going to happen. It's bound to happen,'" Schumaker said. "I would rather win by 10 than one, than to come from behind. There's no doubt about that. But I think it wouldn't have made it as special as it was this year."

The Marlins lost to Philadelphia in the Wild Card Series.

Voting by the BBWAA occurred before the start of the postseason. Schumaker defeated Milwaukee's Craig Counsell—who left to manage the Chicago Cubs last week—and Atlanta's Brian Snitker in a tight race.

Schumaker received eight first-place votes, three more than runner-up Counsell. Snitker also got eight but had far fewer second- and third-place votes than Schumaker.

The Brewers remain the only current franchise that has never had a Manager of the Year. Counsell finished second for the fourth time in six years.

The Marlins have had four managers win the award—Schumaker, Don Mattingly in 2020, Joe Girardi in 2006 and Jack McKeon in 2003.

Schumaker is the ninth person to win Manager of the Year in his first full season as a big league skipper, joining Hal Lanier, Dusty Baker, Girardi, Matt Williams, Jeff Banister, Dave Roberts, Torey Lovullo and Rocco Baldelli.

"I didn't expect to manage," said Schumaker, who played for the Cardinals, Dodgers and Reds from 2005-15. "I dreamt of playing in the major leagues one day, and then I fell in love with coaching and then I got this opportunity."

Hyde is the ninth Manager of the Year who didn't play in the majors, joining Buck Showalter, Jim Leyland, Joe Maddon, McKeon, Jim Frey, John McNamara, Snitker and Mike Shildt.

Prior to joining the Orioles, Hyde was a bench coach for the Chicago Cubs under Maddon, and it was Maddon who announced the winners Tuesday night on MLB Network.

Hyde became the fourth Baltimore manager to win, following Showalter in 2014, Davey Johnson in 1997 and Frank Robinson in 1989.

For Counsell, chance to manage Cubs was one he couldn't pass up

CHICAGO (AP)—Craig Counsell didn't answer the phone when the Chicago Cubs called about their manager job. Once he realized the number belonged to President of Baseball Operations Jed Hoyer, he quickly got in touch.

After that, things unfolded in a hurry.

The Cubs introduced Counsell as their 56th manager on Monday, one week after they lured him away from the Milwaukee Brewers with a record contract and fired David Ross in a pair of surprising moves. He became the majors' highest paid manager with a five-year deal worth more than $40 million.

"I called him back," Counsell said. "And he indicated the Cubs had interest, discussed some generalities of what was going on, my schedule. I was interested, but cautious. I suggested we get together that day because I was going to New York the next day. My process was getting very fast, so we got together later that day."

The interview took place at Hoyer's home. The only other Cubs personnel who knew about it were chairman Tom Ricketts and general manager Carter Hawkins.

"It was a little bit of a shot in the dark and I didn't think it was very likely," Hoyer said. "And therefore, I wanted to make sure I kept a really small circle."

Having the interview at his home was a first for Hoyer. But then again, this was a rare opportunity to land one of the top managers, though the circumstances were familiar. The Cubs hired Joe Maddon and fired Rick Renteria following the 2014 season, when they thought they were on the cusp of contending.

Hoyer was the general manager back then, with Theo Epstein running baseball operations. Maddon led the Cubs to four straight playoff appearances, including a World Series championship in 2016 that ended a 108-year drought, and a 471-339 record in five seasons.

Ross was 262-284 in four seasons and led the Cubs to the NL Central title in 2020—his first year. They were in contention for a wild card this year and finished 83-79 after back-to-back losing seasons. Ross was also a popular member of the 2016 team as a backup catcher.

Now, Counsell takes over.

He led the budget-conscious Brewers to five playoff appearances in the past six years, including three NL Central titles, and a 707-625 record in nine seasons. His contract expired, making him one of the biggest managerial free agents in recent years.

Counsell holds the franchise record for wins and games managed. The one mark against him was Milwaukee's inability to perform as well in the playoffs. The Brewers have lost nine of their last 10 postseason games.

"The 162 games is a marathon and there are ... decisions you make that are rewarded over the marathon and players are rewarded over the marathon," Counsell said. "In short playoff series, we have luck in our game. And we have misfortune in our game. You control less in really short stints in this game. It forces aggressiveness on managers, I think."

Brewers principal owner Mark Attanasio said last week the team offered a deal that would have made Counsel the highest paid manager per year and in total package. Counsel said he wasn't sure if there was more the team could have done to keep him. He had been thinking of managing elsewhere the past two years.

"I wanted to give myself time to be in that place, to see what was in front of me, to see what was going on with my family and give myself time to make a decision that I felt was best for all of us," Counsell said.

Counsell grew up a Brewers fan in the Milwaukee suburb of Whitefish Bay, Wisconsin, and still lives there. His father, John Counsell, is the Brewers' former director of community affairs.

An infielder, Counsell's 16-year run as a major league player included two stints with the Brewers—in 2004 and from 2007 to 2011. He played on championship teams with the Florida Marlins in 1997 and Diamondbacks in 2001, and he was part of the 2008 Brewers team that earned Milwaukee its first playoff appearance since its 1982 World Series berth.

As much as Counsell's decision to leave stung fans in Milwaukee, taking the Cubs job was like pouring a packet of salt on the wound. Someone sprayed the word "ass" on the sign at the Little League field bearing his name in Whitefish Bay.

"That's been part of the ride that's been a hard week for me, for sure," Counsell said. "It has. And I underestimated that. I underestimated that. That was my miscalculation there, a little bit. As time moves forward, I'm very proud of what happened in Milwaukee. ... I think time will look favorably on what was accomplished during those nine years that I was the manager there. It's there and it's real and I understand it. I do. But I think time will help."

Chung sisters dominate women's field

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
EDITOR

Irin and Serin Chung duplicated their win in the girls 18 doubles by winning the women's doubles in the 12th TanHoldings Tennis Classic last weekend at the Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan and American Memorial Park tennis courts.

The Chung sisters went 2-0 in women's open play. They first beat Melody Johnson and Mikayla Lopez, 5-7, 6-2, 10-1, before capping it off with a 6-2, 4-6, 10-7 win over Anne Lee and Amelie Terlaje.

The sisters then figured in the finals of the women's open with Irin taking the tiara, 6-3, 4-6, 10-7.

The Chung sisters' final preempted the much-anticipated showdown between Anne Lee and Hoo Wang.

The top junior girls' netters figured in a heated girls 18 finals a week prior. However, both were ousted in the semis of the women's open with Lee dropping a 1-6, 3-6 loss to Irin and Wang exiting following a 6-2, 1-6, 7-10 defeat in the hands of Serin.

Irin said playing the women's open finals against her sister was a dream come true.

"It felt exciting knowing it's my sister. It made me feel more comfortable and I wasn't nervous at all. I really enjoyed playing against my sister...I feel like we both weren't able to play our best because I know we have played so much better before, but it was a close match and I hope to compete against her again," said the 15-year-old Saipan International School student.

She added going all the way in the women's open more than made up for her lackluster showing in the girls 16.

"I was upset I didn't do so well in the juniors but I'm happy I was able to do better in the women's division," said Irin who dedicated her championship to their parents, Rie Nakai and J.B. Chung, as well as Serin.

For her part, Serin said playing the women's open finals opposite Irin was both challenging and fun.

"I felt a lot more nervous playing her in the finals than when I played her for third place in the junior division. I think it was nice since we usually don't play against each other in tournaments. It really feld good since it has been a while since my sister and I played doubles together in a tournament. I think the last time we played was like in the girls 12," she said.

In the women's doubles 3.0, Min Han and Jing Zhao triumphed over Mae Kim and Mei Rengiil in the finals 7-5, 6-2, while Soung Mi Yang blanked Wei Tang, 6-0, 6-0, for the women's 2.0 championship.

Race wins first men's 60

CNMI Sports Hall of Fame inductee Jeff Race, meanwhile, reached a milestone in the tourney. This, after winning his first men's 60 championship, which now gives him around 107 career titles.

"Experience counts for a lot. I've played in hundreds of tournament matches. So, I don't really get very nervous and I know what to do during tense situations," he said.

Race dominated the division as he nearly swept Brian K. Wessel in the finals, 6-1, 6-0. Before that the many-time CNMI national tennis coach easily beat John Bradley, 6-0, 6-1.

He also took the mixed doubles 50 championship with Lydia Tan after the pair overwhelmed Sally Lee and David Lai (6-1, 6-1) and Eun Kyoung Lee and Dong Min Lee (6-0, 6-1).

In the mixed doubles open, David Kwon and Hoo Wang took the championship with successive wins over Lina Tsukagoshi and Siwoo Lee (6-3, 6-2) and Hannah Chae and June Yu (6-3, 6-1).

J.R. A. Jacinto and Mae Kim then topped the mixed doubles 3.0 after drubbing Mihoko Suzuki and Jim Tuttle, 6-4, 6-2, while David and Annie Lai won the mixed doubles 4.0 via walkover against Yuko Kumada and Reo Ariola.

In the women's doubles 4.0, Annie Lai and Lydia Tan outlasted Yuko Kumada and Harumi Suzuki, 4-6, 7-5, 10-7, in the finals.

PSS first to advance to gov't/biz caging finals

By CHRYSTAL MARINO
chrystal_marino@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

The Public School System crushed Marpac, 73-63, in the 2023 R&J Wine and Liquor Inter-Government Business League last Tuesday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium to seal their place in the finals.

With both teams undefeated up to that point in the playoffs, their respective supporters were highly anticipating a good game, and PSS came in hot and in just the first quarter put their mark on the board, 22-12. Marpac tried to catch up but attempts weren't as successful as hoped with the second quarter ending with them under a 15-point hole, 40-25.

The third quarter ended with more promise as Marpac kicked it up a notch and moved that 15-point divide down to just 6 points, 47-53.

Marpac lost steam in the final 10 minutes though and at the end of the game, it was PSS winning by 10 points.

Mii Tekopua led PSS with 18 markers, while Preston Basa supported him ably with 15 points of his own. Coby Santos led Marpac's losing cause with 25 points, while Jeff Castro added 20 of his own.

Marpac got a second crack of a finals berth when it squared off against Priority Care last night. Results will be published in Monday's issue of *Saipan Tribune.*

PSS 73 – Tekopua 18, Basa 15, Valencia 13, Sakisat 10, Ferran 6, Winkfield 4, T. Palacios 2, E. Palacios 2, Masaharu 2, Mendez 1.

Marpac 63 – Santos 25, Castro 20, G. Sablan 6, Mettao 4, Babauta 4, H. Sablan 2, Lee 2.

Scores by quarters: 22-12, 40-25, 53-47,73-63

MARIANAS

From page 24

the young national swim team were doing laps with their coaches Richard Sikkel and Hiroyuki Kimura directing them from the sidelines.

The facilities, Sikkel said, was not there two months ago so it's understandable that the host is working out the kinks. Other than that, he and coach Kimura said the team will be training twice a day—in the morning and afternoon until their competition days. Only after will they be able to enjoy the sights of Honiara.

Saipan Tribune caught up with other teams during lunch in the mess hall later.

Weightlifting coach Greg Borja said they got to take a look at the area they will be competing in. Antonette Labausa said they got to train and the whole place was set up for them nicely. The facility is ways off from the main National Stadium and from the athletes village.

Soccer's Catherine Attao-Toves said their team's training was yesterday at 4pm at the pitch near the athletes village.

As for va'a, team coach/athlete Justin Andrew said they had to negotiate with the Solomon Islands Canoe Federation in order to set up a time to practice out in the water at DC Park due to a limited number of canoes and time slots. Other than that, he looks forward to getting their feet wet and familiarizing themselves with the course and canoes.

Stay tuned for the results of each sport in the coming week.

NETTERS

From page 24

play their best every time they step onto the court.

"As far as what we can accomplish, I genuinely don't know. I think flying to the Solomon Islands with the 'hope' of winning is the wrong approach. We expect no easy matches. It will be fierce battle after battle from Day 1. I think it's reasonable to assume that our best chance of medaling will be in the team competition and the doubles."

Ramsey added that all four of them also have one thing in common, which is their affinity for net play.

"It takes an aggressive mindset and if properly executed, yields high results. I absolutely love serving and volleying, cutting out long baseline battles by rushing to the net and being controlling from the first ball. I could talk all day about strategy, but at the end of the day, we will have to adapt and use different tactics if we're going to win. Our team has a nice balance of attributes to work with, but watch for the aggressive net play; that may be one of our keys to success in the 2023 Pacific Games."

Villanueva, meanwhile, is looking forward to playing tough matches against the region's best in Honiara.

"Personally, I'd like to play as many matches as possible. I am looking forward to learning from other players and see how I can implement some aspects of their game into my own. My expectation for the team is to also win as many matches as possible by learning from one another," said the 24-year-old Topnotch assistant manager.

Wessel said his inclusion in the CNMI National Tennis Team is the greatest achievement of his young tennis career.

"It's an honor to make the team and my expectations are for all of us to do good because we have chemistry with each other, especially with me and June," said the 14-year-old student of Kagman High School.

Yu, for his part, echoed what Ramsey said, "My expectations is to do my best and play what my coach and teammates want me to play," said the 15-year-old student from Mt. Carmel School.

TEAM

From page 24

port putting things together—I thought that went pretty well. I think all in all it's gone well."

As for the convenience of charter flights and now that the NMI has debuted with flying in one, he said, "I hope that we can continue to entertain charters moving forward with Team Marianas. This was a big year obviously and the other competitions coming up, I don't know if that'd warrant a full charter as far as the Micronesian Games and the Pacific Mini Games in 2025, but certainly the bigger events maybe the in Tahiti in 2027 that I think there's a great opportunity to do that."

He added, "I hope things go as smoothly on our return to the Marianas as it did heading here. Being out of the country, it may be a slightly different system to kind of navigate, but hopefully by then, we're heavy with medals and won't be too concerned with the process."

Once the flight landed, Team Marianas was greeted warmly by the host with welcomes and banners that bore the Pacific Games 2023 logo. All around, the spirit of the Games was seen from the local press that awaited the team outside, the Games banners that adorn the airport and surrounding areas, and the participating country's flags blowing in the breeze.

When Jersh Angeles, national soccer team assistant coach, was asked how he liked the flight, he said it's much better and faster than his previous flights that went as long as two days. He said the direct flight is much easier on the athletes because they get sick or too fatigued on the longer ones.

Zhimin Jin, national team golfer, also said she liked that the flight was short and smooth. As for her impression of the island upon arrival, she said she's seen pictures before and that it's about the same as she's expected it to be. She added that the people who greeted the team at the airport were genuine with their kindness.

After a few minutes wait in the shuttles that took them to the village—and despite no internet connection or phone service, plus the downpour of rain and fear of contracting malaria from mosquitoes—Team Marianas finally made it to their designated Athletes Village in the Solomon Islands National University Kukkum.

There was no time to explore the sports facilities and venues as the sun was setting while the athletes unpacked in their rooms, but from the highways on the way to the village, ooh's and aah's were heard from the athletes as the shuttle drivers pointed their brightly lit fields and courts out.

The NMI team managed to get a few moments of Wi-Fi connection at the main mess hall that night where all participating countries eat lunch and dinner together. After almost a full day of traveling that began with boarding in the early morning, Team Marianas finally settled into their rooms ready to take on the next day.

Randle, Brunson lead Knicks to victory over Atlanta Hawks.

PAGE 21

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Chung sisters dominate women's field.

PAGE 23

Marianas teams get feet wet in Honiara

LEIGH GASES

CNMI National Swimming Team's Isaiah Aleksenko during a training session at the swimming pool in the National Stadium in Honiara, Solomon Islands yesterday morning.

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

HONIARA, Solomon Islands—Team CNMI's fogginess and exhaustion from Wednesday's travel to Honiara, Solomon Islands for the 2023 Pacific Games were quickly washed away yesterday morning by the excitement of a new day to train and a full breakfast with their teammates.

"Train, train, train" is on the athlete's minds as the break from phones and social media and classes allow them to focus more on their mission—haul in medals.

With no internet connection yet, athletes had to make do with asking the locals for directions and information—many of whom were knowledgeable and helpful, but all quite friendly despite a language barrier.

After breakfast, all 10 teams went their separate ways either to train or take care of a few things like exchanging currency or buying SIM cards.

Saipan Tribune tagged along with the tennis team who needed to train before their competition today. The shuttle from the athletes village to the National Stadium—where the track and field, tennis courts, swimming pools, and basketball/volleyball court are located—takes about 10 minutes to get to with minimal traffic.

The tennis team—consisting of playing coach Colin Ramsey, Moris Villanueva and junior players June Yu and Nason Wessel—went on to complete a two-and-a-half hour training session under the thankfully overcast sky, but severely humid morning.

Ramsey said on how the team feels heading into the competition, that they'll be ready and do their best. Even with a young team, he said, the international experience they've garnered in the past will surely translate positively onto the Pacific Games stage.

As for the courts, he said it's "faster" than they're used to. Meaning, he said, the ball—when hit, travels and bounces faster than the American Memorial Park tennis courts where they held their practices. Villanueva said he should've trained at the Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan tennis courts where the courts are similar to the ones in Honiara.

The team then took a lunch break and rested later, then trained again at 4pm for another two-hour session.

Nearby the tennis courts is the swimming pool where water splashing and coaches coaching directions could be heard. There, all members of

See MARIANAS on Page 23

Team NMI settles in Honiara

LEIGH GASES

Team Marianas chef de mission Nick Gross gets directions at the Honiara International Airport upon the delegation's arrival in Honiara, Solomon Islands Wednesday afternoon.

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

HONIARA, Solomon Islands—All roads lead to the south Pacific in Honiara, Solomon Islands as they host the Pacific Games for the first time.

Ninety-five NMI athletes made it on the four-hour charter flight that also flew Guam and American Samoa athletes Wednesday afternoon.

Only one NMI athlete, va'a's Michael Peter, couldn't make it to the scheduled charter and there are six more athletes flying in on their own later.

NMSA president Jerry Tan said his well wishes and good luck to the team on the plane before departure and said, "I just want to wish everyone a safe trip… I just want to make sure all of you enjoy the experience. Play hard and I know that you are all going to do your very best—but most important, make the CNMI proud." He also said good luck to team Guam and American Samoa.

Nick Gross, the team's chef de mission, was interviewed before landing in Honiara and said the process with the charter flight "went pretty well."

"It took a little longer than expected but with a charter flight and the unknowns that we were kind of getting into regarding some of the processes, in the end, I think it worked out fine… the way that everything was arranged through POI and Solomon Airlines, with Northern Marianas Sports Association's sup-

See TEAM on Page 23

Netters expect 'no easy matches' in Honiara

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
EDITOR

The CNMI National Tennis Team is treating the absence of their top players in the 2023 Pacific Games in Honiara, Solomon Islands as both a blessing and a curse.

"Although we were all hoping for the return of the other Colin (the triple gold medalist Colin Sinclair) and our doubles specialist Robbie Schorr, we have a team that has been working hard to fill the shoes of our star players. It is not an easy task, but I believe I speak for the team when I say we don't feel the pressure of what is expected of us," said national tennis coach Colin Ramsey.

Aside from Ramsey, who is playing coach, the rest of the CNMI National Tennis Team for the 2023 Pacific Games are Moris Villanueva, June Yu, and Nason Wessel.

"We have talent, we have drive, and we have some younger players who are eager for the challenge of a larger competition. Moris and I will make strategic decisions on who plays No. 1 or No. 2, June is our No. 3 and Nason at No. 4."

While he doesn't want to make any promises, Ramsey said what everyone can expect from the team is that they will

See NETTERS on Page 23

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, CNMI National Tennis Team players Nason Wessel, June Yu, Moris Villanueva, and playing coach Colin Ramsey after a recent practice session at the American Memorial Park tennis courts.